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MIDEAST EDITION

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Free to Deployed Areas



HOMAYOON RAHMANI/AP

Rescuers and volunteers search for survivors after a massive landslide buried a village in Badakhshan province, northeastern Afghanistan, on Friday.

How did Afghan 'torturer in chief' end up in US?

By GREG MILLER, JULIE TATE
AND JOSHUA PARTLOW
The Washington Post

In Afghanistan, his presence was enough to cause prisoners to tremble. Hundreds in his organization's custody were beaten, shocked with electrical currents or subjected to other abuses documented in human rights

reports. Some allegedly disappeared. And then Haji Gulalai disappeared as well.

He had run Afghan intelligence operations in Kandahar after the U.S.-led invasion in 2001 and later served as head of the spy service's detention and interrogation branch. After 2009, his whereabouts were unknown.

Because of his reputation for brutality,

Gulalai was someone both sides of the war wanted gone. The Taliban tried at least twice to kill him. Despite Gulalai's ties to the CIA and Afghan President Hamid Karzai, United Nations officials and U.S. coalition partners sought to rein him in or have him removed.

Today, Gulalai lives in a pink two-story house in Southern California,

on a street of stucco homes on the outskirts of Los Angeles.

How he managed to land in the United States remains murky. Afghan officials and former Gulalai colleagues said that his U.S. connections — and mounting concern about his safety — account for his extraordinary accommodation.

SEE TORTURER ON PAGE 6



Gulalai

QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"Don't you have kids?
Don't your kids need to
use the toilet?"**

— A mainland Chinese woman, whose son was definitely not using a toilet when relieving himself on a Hong Kong street

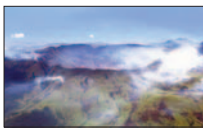
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COMING TOMORROW



Courtesy Jialiang Gao via Wikipedia Commons

Science & Medicine
The volcano that changed the course of history

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MIDEAST

Afghans dig for landslide survivors

By AMIR SHAH
AND RAHIM FAIEZ
The Associated Press

ABI BARIK, Afghanistan — Afghan rescuers and hundreds of volunteers armed with shovels and little more than their bare hands dug through earth and mud Saturday looking for survivors or bodies of loved ones killed by a massive landslide in the remote northeast.

Figures on the number of people killed and missing in the disaster Friday varied from 255 to 2,700 as officials tried to gather precise information. Fears of a new landslide complicated rescue efforts, and with homes and residents buried under yards of mud, officials said the earth from the landslide likely would be their final resting place.

"That will be their cemetery," said Mohammad Karim Khalili, one of the country's two vice presidents, who visited the scene Saturday. "It is not possible to bring out any bodies."

Though figures on the death toll varied, residents knew the toll the tragedy had taken on their own families.

From atop a muddy hill, Begam Nesar pointed to the torrent of earth below that had wiped out much of her village. "Thirteen of my family members are under the mud," she said, including her mother, father, brothers, sisters and children. She said she had been visiting relatives at a nearby village when the disaster struck.

The United Nations said Friday at least 350 people died, and the provincial governor said as many as 2,000 people were feared missing. On Saturday, the International Organization of Migration said information they gathered from provincial figures and local community leaders indicated that 2,700 people were dead or missing.

Part of the confusion lay in the fact that no one knew how many people were home when the landslide struck. At least 255 people were confirmed dead, Khalili said. Most of those were people who had rushed to the scene to help after a previous, smaller landslide. When a bigger landslide then struck the area, those



GULRAHIM NIAZMAN/AP

Afghans search for survivors after Friday's landslide buried Abi-Barik village in Badkhashan province, northeastern Afghanistan, on Saturday.

people along with roughly 300 homes were wiped out. But since no one knows how many people were in those 300 homes, it remains difficult to account for the dead, Khalili said.

Mohammad Aslam Seyas, deputy director of the Natural Disaster Management Authority, said fears of new landslides had slowed the operation.

"Search and rescue operations are going on very slowly," Seyas said.

The ground on a hill overlooking the village was soaked from recent heavy rainfalls that officials believe triggered the slide. More than half a mile away, government and aid groups had set up tents to care for people displaced by the disaster.

Sunatullah, a local farmer, was working outside when he felt the earth start to move. He said he ran toward his house, grabbed his wife and children and then ran to the top of a nearby hill. Minutes later, he said, part of the

hill collapsed.

"The houses were just covered in mud," he said, adding that he had lost 10 members of his extended family, his house and his livestock.

Authorities distributed food and water to people displaced by the landslides, said Abdullah Homayun Dehqan, the head of Badkhashan province's National Disaster Department.

Rescuers have struggled to reach the remote area, where there is little development or infrastructure. The province borders Tajikistan to the north and China and Pakistan to the east.

On Friday, President Barack Obama said the U.S. government also stood ready to provide assistance. But a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan told The Washington Post on Saturday that the U.S. military was still on "standby" because the Afghan National Army had not requested additional resources.

"If they request support, we will provide support, but at this point they have not requested any support," said Capt. Keith Robinson, a spokesman for the international coalition's northern regional command.

Even if the U.S. military is called upon, there may be limits to what it could do because American troops have been steadily reducing their footprint in Afghanistan.

As the number of coalition bases dwindles, the range of military medevac helicopters is increasingly limited. U.S. soldiers generally do not operate without the availability of medical air support.

Last week, for example, the coalition supplied bottled water for delivery to flood-ravaged parts of northern Afghanistan. But Afghan troops, not coalition soldiers, were used to transport the water directly to victims in remote areas, Robinson told The Post.

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STARS AND STRIPES

MILITARY



PAUL MORSE, GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL CENTER/AP

Former President George W. Bush leads the second day of a three-day, 100-kilometer mountain bike ride with 16 wounded veterans Friday.

Bush leads ride for wounded vets

By JAMIE STENGLE
The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — Former President George W. Bush pedaled off Friday on the second of a three-day mountain bike ride with 16 "extraordinary" wounded veterans to honor their service and celebrate their recoveries.

Bush, 67, planned to ride the full 100 kilometers, or 62 miles, of the fourth annual Warrior 100K, accompanied all the way by the current and retired military personnel who were wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The thing that amazes me is that rather than allowing life's difficult circumstances to overwhelm them, they've turned the circumstances into good by showing courage and hard work and sacrifice," Bush told reporters before heading off on a 30-mile ride on his ranch in Crawford in Central Texas and along nearby country roads.

Friday's route zigzagged through the property's wildflower-strewn prairie and along a trail on a ridge overlooking a creek.

"I'm surrounded by extraordinary people, people who have

volunteered to serve our nation and in so doing became injured," he said.

Army Master Sgt. Chris Demars, who was wounded in two separate attacks in Afghanistan in the space of just 10 days in 2011, was among the riders. The attacks — a roadside bomb and a motorcycle suicide bomber — left him with traumatic brain injury, two broken legs and multiple shrapnel wounds. He also suffered a back injury and both his earsdrums were blown out.

Demars, 45, has since fought to overcome post-traumatic stress disorder along with many physical ailments, and says he admires Bush's efforts to reduce the stigma of the condition. Bush asserted earlier this year that "disorder" should be removed from

the condition's name, underlining that it is entirely treatable.

After being flown back to the U.S. for treatment, Demars, of Gill, Mass., was recovering in a hospital when he saw news coverage of Bush's first Warrior 100K. He told his parents he would take part the next year. It took him three years to recover sufficiently to join the ride, which he described as an "awesome" experience.

He said bicycling provides the kind of excitement that he misses from overseas assignments.

"You get out there and you hit a good descent with some tricky spots and you almost crash a couple of times — it's good. It keeps that adrenaline rush going," said Demars, who noted that such exercise is also a good way to combat times he's feeling agitated.

"You get out there and you hit a good descent with some tricky spots and you almost crash ... it's good."

Master Sgt. Chris Demars
Army veteran

Congressman intervenes on behalf of Marine jailed in Mexico

By JULIE WATSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A California congressman sent a letter Friday to Secretary of State John Kerry asking him to secure the release of a U.S. Marine veteran jailed in Tijuana after he drove into Mexico with three legally owned guns in his truck last month.

Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter said in the letter that Afghanisthan War veteran Andrew Tahmoore said he just moved to San Diego from Florida and had all his belongings in his truck, including his pistol, shotgun and

rifle, when he missed the last U.S. exit on April 1, forcing him to cross the border.

Road closures because of checkpoints and construction added to the confusion, and there was no opportunity for drivers to turn around, Hunter added.

The 25-year-old was arrested by Mexican federal authorities on weapons charges and is being held at the La Mesa Penitentiary in Tijuana.

"Andrew is neither a criminal nor a weapons trafficker, and his incarceration is an extraordinarily unfortunate occurrence," wrote Hunter, a Marine veteran

of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. "I am confident this situation can be resolved quickly through the continued attention and support of the U.S. State Department, but I remain concerned for Andrew's safety and well-being as a prisoner in Mexico." State Department officials said they were aware of an arrest of a U.S. citizen in Mexico, but they do not comment on arrests of private individuals without the person's permission.

Hunter wrote that Tahmoore said he was recently treated at the prison infirmary for a knife wound to his neck, Hunter said.

Pressure grows in Phoenix VA hospital scandal

By CINDY CARCAMO
Los Angeles Times

TUCSON, Ariz. — U.S. Veterans Affairs officials were under mounting pressure Friday to find an interim head for the troubled VA medical center in Phoenix, a day after three hospital executives were placed on administrative leave amid a wide-reaching scandal brought on by whistleblowers accusing the hospital of keeping a secret waiting list to hide delays in treatment.

At least 40 veterans died while waiting for service, according to hospital employees and several members of Congress who have looked into the allegations.

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki announced Thursday he had placed Phoenix VA Director Sharon Helman, Associate Director Lance Robinson and a third unidentified employee on administrative leave "until further notice."

"We believe it is important to allow an independent, objective review to proceed," Shinseki said in a prepared statement. "These allegations, if true, are absolutely unacceptable and if the inspector general's investigation substantiates these claims, swift and appropriate action will be taken."

The move came after Arizona Republican congressmen Trent Franks, Matt Salmon and David Schweikert wrote a letter to Shinseki calling for the resignation of Helman and other top leadership at the Phoenix facility.

"As you are aware, recent reports indicate that thousands of veterans were forced to wait on a secret list, some for over 200 days, before receiving proper care," the letter said. "As a direct result of such practices, the deaths of over 40 veterans have come to light. These reports are extremely disturbing, and are a

great disservice to our veterans."

Helman on Friday said she respected Shinseki's decision and was "fully supportive of any decision that ensures we have a thorough review by the Office of the Inspector General."

The announcement about the leadership at the medical center came on the same day that a second VA doctor stepped forward with accusations of misconduct.

Dr. Katherine Mitchell told The Arizona Republic she could no longer keep quiet after she found out that VA hospital officials were shredding documents in the wake of a VA inspector general investigation into the allegations.

Mitchell said she got a call from a fellow employee at the VA hospital Sunday night, telling her that documents were being destroyed that evening. This was after the U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs ordered the agency to protect documents associated with the allegations.

Mitchell told the newspaper that she went to the medical center and joined her co-worker in preserving documents — including paperwork that they said showed falsified wait times for medical care.

The allegations of misconduct surfaced after CNN aired an interview with Dr. Sam Foote, who retired after more than 20 years with the VA system in Phoenix.

He told the news outlet that the Phoenix VA keeps two lists for patients with appointments, one of them a fake list that he said is passed off as official for Washington officials. The list with the real wait times, he said, is kept secret.

The second list shows long wait times for some veterans, but a year, Foote told CNN. Up to 1,600 veterans are on that list and at least 40 have languished and died, he said.

is now in the Marine Reserve.

"He's not had suicidal inclinations. But you never know after having his life in danger, and (having to) go through this ordeal," said his mother, a nurse. "Andrew's hopeless, and I've become hopeless."

There have been similar cases in the past. In 2008, an active-duty Army soldier was jailed in Ciudad Juarez for driving into Mexico with guns, knives and ammunition. Former Army Spc. Richard R. Medina Torres also said he missed the last U.S. exit. He spent a little over a month in jail before being released.

MIDEAST

GI overcomes loss of leg to return to war zone

Armed with grit, determination amputee proves he's fit to fight

By TIM CRAIG

The Washington Post

CAMP SPANN, Afghanistan — When U.S. Army Lt. Joshua Pitcher woke up in a military hospital in Kandahar province, he immediately looked toward his feet.

The last thing he remembered was a doctor promising he would try to save the soldier's left leg, which had been shredded by a roadside bomb. Now Pitcher stole a look downward at the sheet covering his lower body. There was one mound instead of two. He swore.

"And then I just spiraled down into complete depression," Pitcher recalled.

Two years later, the 25-year-old is serving in Afghanistan again, but this time with a prosthetic leg — going on missions with an M-4 assault rifle and 50 pounds of body armor and gear strapped to his body.

A total of 1,564 soldiers or Marines have lost at least one leg, arm or hand in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the Pentagon. Pitcher is one of a tiny minority — just 57 — who have returned to war zones.

In the past, the idea of an amputee returning to combat was virtually unthinkable, even though the occasional soldier remained on active duty after losing part of an arm or a leg. Now, thanks to advances in medical care and sturdier prosthetics, more servicemembers can at last try.

But Pitcher's story shows how daunting the road back can be.

He had to overcome severe mood swings, the skepticism of doctors and military commanders, and a drug dependency so severe he was popping 40 pills a day.

He had to learn not only how to walk again but also how to run and do dozens of sit-down push-ups. And he had to prove he could jump out of planes.

Because, while most amputees who remain in the military take desk jobs or support positions, Pitcher had other ideas.

He wanted to return as a paratrooper.

'No, I am going'

From the age of 4, Pitcher was determined to be a soldier. The son of an Army combat flight medic, he was raised on military bases in Germany, Texas, Georgia, Alabama and Kentucky.

He joined the 82nd Airborne Division after he graduated from Eastern Kentucky University. In April 2012, just two months after arriving in Afghanistan, Pitcher was on a mission when he



LORENZO TUGNOLI/The Washington Post

A member of the Afghan police stares at Joshua Pitcher's prosthesis. Pitcher is leading a unit that provides security to a convoy to a remote Afghan National Police outpost in Samangan province, Afghanistan.

stepped off the road to urinate. As soon as he zipped up his pants, he heard what sounded like a small firecracker.

"I looked down at my foot, and I was like, 'Uh-oh,'" he recalled.

Initially, Pitcher was defiant. When he arrived at the U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, two days after the initial operation, he opened up Facebook on his iPad. "I will return," he wrote.

Soon after, when he had moved to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, he insisted to staff that he was well enough to attend when his fiancée, Michelle, graduated from Eastern Kentucky University.

"They said, 'Josh, it's too early. You can't go,'" recalled Pitcher's father, Randy.

"No, I am going," Pitcher responded, according to his father's account. "Take the damn IVs out of my arm, and I will prove to you I can go."

When he returned to Walter Reed, though, he endured one infection after the other.

One day in June 2012, he was scheduled to receive his prosthetic leg. Pitcher had gotten up early and was lifting weights, when two doctors rushed in and told him he needed an operation because of yet another infection in his stump.

"That meant I had to wait another month, and that took depression to a whole new level," Pitcher said. "You are so tired of being in a wheelchair, so tired of being on crutches."

Pitcher began lashing out in "extreme anger," recalled Michelle, now his wife. He also started drinking heavily, persuading friends and fellow soldiers to sneak him out of Walter Reed for trips to bars in Maryland.

Soon, Pitcher said, he was gulping up to 40 Oxycontin pills a day,

despite the drug's reputation for being extremely addictive. He was "zombie-like," Michelle Pitcher said.

New reality in action

Yet over that summer, Pitcher started to come to terms with what he called his "new reality."

Pitcher's younger brother was also in the Army in Afghanistan at the time, and the siblings had been competitive since childhood. When Pitcher thought about leaving the military, he would become nauseated.

"It was clear he didn't want to go out this way," his father said.

When he got his prosthetic leg in July 2012, Pitcher said it took him only a week to learn how to walk with it.

Though he was still on medication, Pitcher began hitting the gym three times a day.

That fall, Pitcher took part in the Army Ten-Miler, an annual race that ends at the Pentagon. He was not able to sprint. But he loaded about 50 pounds of weights into his Army backpack and briskly walked and jogged.

In January 2013, Pitcher completed the Army Physical Fitness Test, doing 80 push-ups and 80 sit-ups, and finishing a two-mile run in 14 minutes and 23 seconds. His fitness score put him in the top 10 percent of active-duty soldiers.

Still, Pitcher had to battle skepticism.

In February 2013, he attended a skiing outing in Colorado with the Wounded Warriors program. His snowboarding skills were so impressive that some case managers suggested he try out for the U.S. Paralympics Team instead of returning to active duty.

"I was like, 'No, I am staying in the Army,'" Pitcher said.

Benjamin "Kyle" Potter, the chief orthopedic surgeon for the

amputee care program at Walter Reed, said Pitcher was helped by the fact his amputation took place below his knee. But the doctor said amputees need to "feel it in their heart" to swiftly become physically active.

Pitcher, he said, "really wanted it."

Amputees are allowed to return to active duty if they can prove they can still do the job and won't be a danger to themselves or others. In 2005, David Rozelle, then an Army captain, became the first military amputee to go back to combat when he redeployed to Iraq.

Three years later, then-Sgt. John "Mike" Fairfax, a member of the Army Special Forces who lost his leg in Afghanistan, set another milestone, as the first amputee to complete the jump master course, in which soldiers train to parachute from aircraft.

First leap of faith

Last June 16, Pitcher took a deep breath, stepped off a C-17 plane over Fort Bragg, N.C., and plunged 800 feet. He didn't know whether his prosthetic leg would hold up. As he fell, he focused on one of the first lessons taught to want-to-be paratroopers.

"Keep your feet and knees together," he told himself.

Hear Pitcher describe how he fought his way back in a video at stripes.com/go/woundedreturns

"He landed pitch perfect," said his father, who was watching from the landing zone. "At that point, he walked over and said, 'OK, I can do this.'"

But Pitcher was still taking Oxycontin. Army substance abuse counselors had warned he'd have to give up the painkillers if he wanted to regain command of a combat platoon.

In August, he got orders to deploy to Afghanistan for about a year. A few days later, with his wife at his side, he flushed the remaining pills down the toilet.

"He wanted to be strong for his guys," his wife said.

Useless not an option

Since last November, Pitcher has led a platoon of 21 paratroopers at Camp Spann on the outskirts of Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan.

He uses a prosthetic that includes a curved blade at the bottom, which allows him to dig into the mud and snow for balance.

When Pitcher runs, his left kneecap smashes onto a titanium prosthetic leg. The 6-foot-1 paratrooper must sit for hours with his legs cramped underneath the dashboard of armored vehicles. He still gets a "phantom" sensation that his missing foot is intact and has fallen asleep.

"You just have to accept it's going to hurt and deal with it your own way," Pitcher said.

Before a recent mission in Samangan province, Pitcher playfully picked up a knife and positioned it at the end of his prosthetic as if were a bayonet.

"If we get attacked, I will just kick," Pitcher said as he raised his leg.

The mission involved escorting a military audit team to an isolated Afghan police outpost. After Pitcher arrived, several police officers walked up, smiling, and asked if they could be photographed with him. They had never seen a man who had lost his foot and returned to war.

"Our government is not taking care of us like that," said one officer, Faizel Ahmad, 32. "If we offcer our leg, then we are useless."

Pitcher said being useless isn't an option for him.

That's why, when going out on missions, he always steps out with his left foot. If he hits another bomb, he hopes, he will only have to replace his shoe.

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FAST

MIDEAST

'I will never leave a fallen comrade'

Details emerge of U.S. troops' heroic efforts to save one another during deadly Afghan attack

By ADAM ASHTON

The (Tacoma, Wash.) News Tribune

TACOMA, Wash. — In her last moments of life, Army nurse Capt. Jennifer Moreno heard two orders.

One was a call to help a wounded soldier struck by a blast in a booby-trapped killing field at an Afghanistan bomb-making compound.

The other was a command to stay put lest she strike another mine in the bomb belt.

The nurse from Madigan Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Fort Lewis, Wash., chose to help the wounded soldier — and gave her life trying.

In the words of her commander, Moreno ran "into hell" to rescue a comrade on the night she was killed. Newly released narratives of the Oct. 5 battle reveal the kind of hell Moreno and dozens of Army special operators found while trying to disrupt a plot to kill civilians in the city of Kandahar.

A total of 12 bombs exploded that night — a chain reaction that took the lives of four U.S. soldiers and wounded at least 25.

The fifth bomb killed Moreno, 25, of San Diego, who volunteered for a dangerous assignment supporting special operators in combat. The 11th bomb wounded three soldiers trying to recover her body.

Moreno is Madigan's only fatal casualty from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, even though the hospital south of Tacoma has continuously deployed soldiers to medical facilities in combat zones.

Moreno "sacrificed her life so others could live," her Bronze Star commendation reads.

The News Tribune previously reported Moreno's death and covered her memorial service at Lewis-McChord. But her award commendation, which the newspaper obtained recently, sheds more light on that chaotic day, and on the heroic steps that were taken to honor the Soldiers Creed: "I will never leave a fallen comrade."

Breaking up a plot

Moreno is one of only 11 women from Lewis-McChord to die in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and one of only two women from the local base who were commissioned officers when they were killed.

Moreno died with Sgt. Patrick Hawkins and Spc. Cody Patterson, of the Georgia-based 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, and special agent Joseph M. Peters, of a military police unit based in Italy.

The Army says their sacrifices stymied an attack "that would have resulted in the deaths of unknown multitudes of innocent civilians." At least two insurgents died in the compound; two of them were wearing suicide vests.

The narratives were written to support military honors several soldiers received for their actions in the fight. Moreno posthumously received a Bronze Star. So did Hawkins and Patterson.

Spc. Samuel Crockett, who survived that bloody day, received a Silver Star for risking



COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/AP

U.S. Army Capt. Jennifer M. Moreno is one of only 11 women from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., to die in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

his life over a two-hour rescue. He played a key role in recovering Moreno's body after the 11th blast and in providing life-saving medical aid to a wounded soldier. He also set off the 12th and final bomb, but it had a low detonation that did not injure him.

The battle began as the soldiers approached the compound in Kandahar's Zhari district and called out for its occupants to surrender.

None of the insurgents inside would be taken alive.

Woman in a suicide vest

The first to die was an Afghan woman walking out of the compound wearing a suicide vest.

She detonated the explosive, killing herself, wounding six troops and setting off a second blast nearby. Two soldiers rushing

to help troops wounded in the first blast hit the third bomb. A second enemy fighter died in those early blasts, too.

An Afghan insurgent who ran away from the building detonated the fourth explosive, another suicide vest. The bomb killed him and a military working dog named Jani.

Moreno heard a call from a staff sergeant to help a wounded soldier. At the same time, the battle's ground commander told all of the soldiers to stay where they were.

Her Bronze Star commendation uses dry, formal military language to describe the decision she faced.

"Disregarding her own well-being," it reads, "Moreno unhesitatingly moved to assist [the soldiers] upon realizing the severity of the wounds sustained by her fellow teammates."

"While in transit, Moreno detonated Device No. 5 and was killed in action."

Few could make the same choice.

"None of us would have done what you did, running into hell to save your wounded brothers, knowing full well you probably wouldn't make it back," the commander of Moreno's female Special Operations support team in Afghanistan, Capt. Amanda King, later wrote in a eulogy.

'Follow me'

The battle did not end with Moreno's sacrifice. "Follow me," Hawkins told Patterson as they made their move to reach the wounded.

Patterson stepped on a mine, the sixth detonation. He stumbled and hit the seventh, delivering fatal wounds to both him and Hawkins. Peters, the military police officer, set off explosion Nos. 8 and No. 9 after working to clear a helicopter landing zone for medical evacuations.

Crockett arrived with a 20-soldier force dispatched to clear the area of mines and rescue the wounded. He was trained for the job as a soldier in a North Carolina-based explosives command.

He cleared space for medics to work on casualties and made his way to isolated Rangers, escorting them through the mine belt to safety. He managed to retrieve Hawkins, the fallen military dog and various pieces of sensitive military equipment without detonating more bombs.

"His focus on retrieving teammates from stranded positions ultimately preserved their lives," his Silver Star commendation reads.

11th explosive

Moreno's body remained on the field.

Three soldiers from Crockett's unit tried to retrieve her but struck the 11th explosive. Crockett ran to them, halting at the edge of his cleared path. He saw his platoon sergeant injured but standing. Crockett guided him back to safe ground.

With no clear path to his two newly wounded teammates, Crockett got down to the ground and swept the earth for mines with his own hands.

He reached a private first class who lost his right leg to the bomb. Crockett applied a tourniquet and "single-handedly dragged him to an area where medics could safely render treatment."

There was one more injured teammate left to recover from the 11th explosion. Crockett set off the final blast as he stepped to the wounded sergeant.

It didn't kill him, so he continued with the rescue. He chose a different path, again set off the ground with his hands and brought his teammate back to safety. Still, Moreno's body remained where she fell. Crockett got as close as he could to the fallen nurse, attached a drag line to her and pulled her to the safe area.

With Moreno recovered, the operators made the call to leave the compound.

Finally, they got out of hell. They did not leave one of their own behind.

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MIDEAST

Torturer: Afghan man in US was in 'a cruel position, so he did cruel things'

FROM FRONT PAGE

CIA officials said the agency played no role in bringing Gulalai into the country. Officials at the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security would not comment on his relocation or immigration status, citing privacy restrictions. Gulalai and members of his family declined repeated inquiries from The Washington Post.

As the United States reports its own exit from Afghanistan, Gulalai's case touches on critical questions looming over that disengagement. What will happen to thousands of Afghans seeking to accompany the American exodus? And how will U.S.-built institutions in that country — particularly its intelligence service, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) — treat those left behind?

Despite a substantial record of human rights abuses, Gulalai was able to bypass immigration barriers and eventually come to the United States made them potential targets of the Taliban. Many have been turned away because of security objections sustained in secret by U.S. spy agencies.

From its inception, the NDS has depended on the CIA to such an extent that it is almost a subsidiary — funded, trained and equipped by its American counterpart. The two agencies have shared intelligence, collaborated on operations and even custody of some detainees.

Gulalai was considered a particularly effective but corrosive figure in this partnership. He was a fierce adversary of the Taliban, officials said, as well as a symbol of the tactics embraced by the NDS.

"He was the torturer in chief," said a senior Western diplomat, who recalled meeting with a prisoner at an NDS facility in Kabul to investigate how he had been treated when Gulalai entered unannounced. The detainee became angry and eventually refused submission. "He was terrified, which made sense," the diplomat said. Gulalai was "a big wheel in a machine that ground up a lot of people."

U.S. officials said the CIA has taken measures to curb NDS abuses, including training its officers on human rights and pushing the organization to allow access to the International Committee of the Red Cross and other monitoring groups. But even after Gulalai's capture, U.S. reports have documented widespread mistreatment of prisoners by the NDS.

Retired Marine Gen. John Allen, who was commander of coalition forces in Afghanistan until last year, warned that "human rights are going to be a real test for some period of time." Allen, who suspended prisoner transfers to the NDS after reports of abuse, said the organization has made progress but described its reliance on torture as an institutional "cancer."

Now in his early 60s, Gulalai lives in a rented house in a Los Angeles suburb where the dry heat and the backdrop of brown hills are reminiscent of Kandahar.

Gulalai, whose real name is Kamal Achakzai, shares the house with a mix of family mem-

bers, including his wife and children, who range in age from toddlerhood into their 20s. "They generally keep to themselves," a neighbor said. "They don't speak except to say hello."

In Southern California, Gulalai is surrounded by a network of Afghans, some of whom have known him since childhood. "We see each other every weekend, we play cards together," said Bashir Wasifi, who attended school with Gulalai in Kandahar in the 1960s before moving to the United States in 1979.

Wasifi said Gulalai showed up unexpectedly with a dozen or more relatives several years ago, after the Taliban had killed two of his brothers and a son. The circumstances convinced local Afghans that Gulalai had received special U.S. help. "He was brought here by your government," Wasifi said.

Gulalai has struggled to adapt. He said he barely speaks and learned little English. It is unclear how the job is supporting itself, although friends and relatives said that Gulalai's sons are employed and that the family owns property in Afghanistan.

The nature of his work and his high-ranking position and powerful clan connections in Afghanistan are gone. But Wasifi said that Gulalai also left behind the violence associated with that life, and is attempting to make the best of his new circumstances.

His position was a cruel position, so he did cruel things, but he is not like that," Wasifi said. "He worked with your government for 10 years. He hunted al-Qaida for 10 years. What [more] would you want?"

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Gulalai was among a core group of Pashtuns recruited by the CIA to help the agency and U.S. Special Operations teams seize Kandahar, the city that had been the Taliban's traditional stronghold. Gulalai and his group were surrounded by prominent fighters in the CIA-backed effort to oust the Soviets from Afghanistan, many of whom went on to become members of the Taliban or senior officials in Karzai's government.

Gen. Sherza Shera, a childhood classmate, called Gulalai "the roughest kid in school." Sherza, who was a candidate for president of Afghanistan this year, led the effort to recapture Kandahar in 2001. When he was named governor of the province, he turned to his friend, Gulalai, to run security and intelligence operations.

At the time, the CIA was trying to cobble together a national intelligence service that could counter the growing threat from internal threats as well as track down al-Qaida operatives. The agency sought to fuse informant networks established by the Northern Alliance — which had worked with the CIA for years equipping the NDS with a fleet of vehicles bought in through Paki-



Hajj Gulalai, in sunglasses, accompanies Afghan President Hamid Karzai, center, in 2002.

stan, delivered office supplies to a Kabul building that the Taliban had trashed and provided a stream of cash to cover payroll. "Money would come in on aircraft, we'd put it through a counting machine and distribute it in duffel bags," said the former U.S. official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the CIA's role.

The agency brought in retired operatives to teach courses in basic espionage and to combine the disparate NDS elements into a coherent structure. The CIA secretly turned some of its better students into informants on the agency payroll, former officials said.

The training sessions also covered laws against torture. "It was obligatory, mandatory," the former U.S. intelligence official said. "Whenever [NDS] captured anybody, we'd say, 'You have to respect their human rights.'"

That message came amid other conflicting signals.

Even while holding classes on the humane treatment of detainees, the CIA was setting up secret prisons where al-Qaida suspects were subjected to brutal measures, including waterboarding. At one of the agency's detention sites in Afghanistan known as the Salt Pit, a prisoner froze to death in 2002 after being doused with water and left alone overnight.

The NDS became an extension of the CIA with considerably greater size and reach. It grew to more than 20,000 employees and established a network of dozens of prisons in facilities that in some cases had served the same purpose under Taliban, Soviet and even 19th century British rule.

In a war that came to be defined by an escalating cycle of raids and arrests, the NDS became a critical repository, taking custody of thousands of prisoners captured by the CIA, the U.S. military and coalition forces.

The NDS branch in Kandahar was a major destination for these deliveries, with a large prison near Kandahar airport, as well as off-the-books interrogation cells hidden among walled compounds in residential neighborhoods, for more detainees and Western officials said.

Sardar Mohammad, a Kandahar resident, said he was held for months in an NDS cell after a team of U.S. Special Operations forces burst into his home in 2002. Gulalai took part in the raid, Mo-

hammad said, and participated in interrogation sessions that included one of his brothers and a son.

"Every night, they beat me," Mohammad said. He was released after his family paid 3,000 Pakistani rupees, he said, but was arrested again later and was taken to a CIA compound known as Camp Gecko before being returned to NDS. There, Mohammad said, his interrogators called him "a personal detainee of Gulalai."

A senior Afghan official who worked with NDS said Gulalai used his position to settle tribal scores and to enrich his clan. Weapons seized by the NDS were sent to an arms depot in Gulalai's hometown of Gulistan, the official said. Prisoners' families were routinely forced to pay ransoms for their release.

"He tortured and took money from them," the official said.

Critics said that Gulalai's tactics also drove neutral Afghans into the enemy's ranks.

Among them was Was Abdul Wasay, who later became the Taliban's "shadow governor" in Kandahar, an unofficial position common across areas of Afghanistan where the Taliban still exerts influence and seeks to challenge the Kabul government's authority. The senior Afghan security official described an early encounter at an NDS prison with Wasay, who accused Gulalai of strapping his father upside down to a door and leaving him in public view.

"I saw my father like this and I decided I must fight the government," Wasay said, according to the Afghan security official, who would discuss security matters only on the condition of anonymity. Wasay continued to fight for a decade until Afghan military forces killed him last month, U.S. and Afghan officials said.

Defenders of Gulalai said that his daunting and dangerous job required a provision that had served for years as the basis of operations for the Taliban and al-Qaida — required him to be ruthless. Kandahar was a focal point of the war. Senior officials there were frequent targets of assassination attempts, including one of Karzai's brothers, who was killed.

Sherza, the former Kandahar governor, disputed the allegations about his intelligence chief, saying: "He was a very brave and strong man. I deny that he tortured anyone. He was under my

command and I would not have allowed him to do that."

By 2005, Gulalai had survived multiple attempts on his life as well as mounting pressure on the government to remove him from his job. A bombing at his family's residence killed one of his brothers but missed its intended target, said Afghan officials and Gulalai associates.

Twice, U.N. officials persuaded then-NDS Chief Amrullah Saleh to issue orders firing Gulalai. Both times, the orders were undone by ethnic politics, U.N. officials said, as Karzai countermanded the Tajik NDS chief to protect his fellow Pashtun tribesman.

Instead of being dismissed, Gulalai was promoted to NDS headquarters in Kabul and was put in charge of the agency's investigations directorate, known at the time as Department 17. The position gave him authority over the main NDS prison in Kabul, to issue detainees from across the country were sent for long-term custody.

Allegations of abuse surged. A secret memo circulated among senior U.N. officials and Western diplomats in late 2007 described him as tortured as "systemic" and identified Gulalai as singularly responsible.

Gulalai was "personally involved in conducting beatings amounting to torture, in detaining suspects illegally and arbitrarily and in conducting torture and systematic evading of international monitoring," the memo said. It cited unverified allegations of "disappearances" as well as testimony of "an extrajudicial killing and cover-up [that] seems very credible."

Gulalai's methods "included beating with a stick to the point of drawing blood, sleep deprivation for as long as thirteen days, protracted periods fastened with handcuffs and chains and suspension from the ceiling," the memo stated.

The harshest treatment was reserved for Gulalai's "personal prisoners," those suspected of being involved in attacks against his family or clan. "They were held in underground cells, including in the cellars of the Investigations Directorate main offices," the memo said.

Overall, Gulalai operated in a "culture of impunity" enabled by his close ties to high-ranking Afghan officials and status as "a key partner for international agencies against counterterrorism and insurgency" — an apparent reference to the CIA and U.S. Special Operations forces.

Ultimately, the growing danger to Gulalai and his family prompted him to plan that exit diplomacy that his group had been unable to engineer.

Gulalai's son, Raqib Achakzai, said in a brief telephone interview in March that the family was forced to flee.

"They killed my cousins, four or five of them, that's why we came out here," said Achakzai, who indicated that he works as a contractor for the U.S. military in North Carolina. He declined to discuss details of the family's departure from Afghanistan, however, saying, "These are questions I'm not about to answer."

NATION

FBI: Number of foreign fighters in Syria growing

By ERIC TUCKER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The flow of foreign fighters into Syria has grown in just the last few months, with dozens of Americans joining the country's conflict along with thousands of Europeans, FBI Director James Comey said Friday.

U.S. law enforcement and intelligence officials have expressed concern about the influence of hard-line jihadists — many of them linked to al-Qaida — among the rebels seeking to overthrow President Bashar Assad.

Officials say fighters from the U.S. or Europe looking to join the cause could become radicalized and import those influences and terrorist skills when they return home.

Speaking to reporters at FBI headquarters, Comey said the number of Americans who have either traveled to Syria or sought to do so was continuing to grow. He would not give a specific figure, but he said the number had grown by a few dozen since the start of the year.

He said in a similar interview several months ago that dozens of Americans were trying to make their way to Syria.

The FBI also believes that there are Americans in Syria actively trying to bring other Americans

‘We are determined not to let lines be drawn from Syria today to a future 9/11.’

James Comey
FBI director

over to the country, Comey said. Comey compared the situation in Syria to that of Afghanistan several decades ago, when thousands of Muslims worldwide who traveled to the country during the 10-year Soviet occupation returned home with the fervor of jihad and, in some cases, sought to overthrow their own governments.

“All of us with a memory of the ‘80s and ‘90s saw the line drawn from Afghanistan in the ‘80s and ‘90s to Sept. 11,” he said. “We see Syria as that, but an order of magnitude worse,” because more foreign fighters are going there and the country is easier to travel to and back from.

He said it was inevitable that there would be a similar diaspora out of Syria and added: “We are determined not to let lines be drawn from Syria today to a future 9/11.”



GLEN STUBBE, (MINNEAPOLIS) STAR TRIBUNE/AP

Students, parents and community members stand in the back of the room to listen as Waseca, Minn., police Capt. Kris Markeson and Waseca school Superintendent Tom Lee speak at a Friday news conference about the 17-year-old arrested in a plot to kill his family and massacre students.

Minn. school bomb plot foiled; teen charged

By PAUL LEVY, NICOLE NORFLEET and PAT PHEIFER
(Minneapolis) Star Tribune

WASECA, Minn. — The Waseca County attorney's office filed a motion Friday asking that a 17-year-old Waseca Junior/Senior High School student who planned to set off bombs and go on a shooting spree at his school be charged as an adult.

According to charges filed Thursday, John David LaDue told police he planned to kill his mother, father and sister and then create a diversion to keep first responders busy while he went to the school to wreak havoc.

After his arrest Tuesday, the high school junior said he intended to kill “as many students as he could” before being killed by the SWAT team, according to charging documents filed in Waseca

County District Court.

LaDue, who police say outlined his plot in chilling detail and backed it up with a cache of guns and homemade explosives, is already charged as a juvenile with four counts of attempted murder, two counts of first-degree damage to property and six counts of possession of a bomb by someone under 18. Adult charges against LaDue are expected to be addressed at his next court appearance on May 12, said Waseca County prosecutor Brenda Miller.

At the Waseca school, which was closed Friday due to a scheduled staff development day, the mood was “various levels of somber,” said Superintendent Thomas Lee. While students stayed home from school and police continued investigating, faculty and administrators talked about addressing students, parents and the commu-

nity in general.

Lee said some teachers openly struggled, asking, “How could I have missed this?” Others walked around in stunned disbelief. Still others were “beating themselves up,” Lee said.

There also were sighs of relief. “We were grateful that we avoided something,” Lee said, referring to LaDue's alleged plans. “Now we're finalizing plans, asking, ‘What are we going to do? How are we going to talk to students and let everyone know that they're safe and that we're here to listen to them?’”

The school district held a community meeting at 5:30 p.m. Friday and was offering tips on its website for how to talk to students about the news and watch for signs of trauma. Lee said there will be counselors available to students Monday.

Maternal deaths related to childbirth rise in U.S.

By CAROL MORELLO
The Washington Post

Maternal deaths related to childbirth in the United States are nearly at the highest rate in a quarter century, and a woman giving birth in America is now more likely to die than a woman giving birth in China, according to a new study.

The United States is one of just eight countries to see a rise in maternal mortality over the past decade, said researchers for the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington in a study published in The Lancet, a weekly medical journal.

The others are Afghanistan, Greece and several countries in Africa and Central America.

The researchers estimated that 18.5 mothers died for every 100,000 births in the U.S. in 2013, a total of almost 800 deaths. That is more than double the maternal mortality rate in Saudi Arabia and Canada, and more than triple

Worldwide, the study estimated that 293,000 women died of pregnancy-related causes in 2013, down from 376,000 in 1990.

the rate in the United Kingdom.

The study was the latest to underscore a steep rise in pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. since at least 1987, when the mortality rate was 7.2 per 100,000 births. The U.S. experienced a sharp spike in 2009 that the Centers for Disease Control attributed to the H1N1 influenza pandemic.

The rate has dipped slightly since then, said Nicholas Kassebaum, the lead physician in the University of Washington study, but it remains stubbornly high.

The increase is in stark contrast to most other countries that have had notable decreases, including many in east Asia and Latin America, the report said. The

United States now ranks 60 for maternal deaths on a list of 180 countries, down markedly from its rank of 22 in 1990. China, by contrast, is up to number 57.

The reasons for the rise in the maternal deaths in the United States are not entirely clear, but several factors seem to be in play. One reason is an improvement in how maternal deaths are reported, though Kassebaum said the numbers are still likely underreported and mischaracterized in the codings included on death certificates.

Equally significant is an increase in the number of pregnant women who have diseases that contribute to a higher-risk

pregnancy, such as hypertension and diabetes, said Kassebaum. He said there also has been an increase in mothers whose pregnancies are riskier because of conditions like heart or neurological diseases who might have died in an earlier era but who now are surviving into adulthood.

In the world as a whole, fully half the maternal deaths happen between 24 hours and a year after childbirth. It's a little higher in the United States, at 55 percent.

Kassebaum said that is because of improved American techniques for treating conditions that cause maternal deaths during childbirth itself, such as obstructed labor and hemorrhaging. The Centers for Disease Control lists cardiovascular disease and infections as the conditions with the highest maternity mortality rates, and anesthesia complications as the lowest.

Worldwide, the study estimated that 293,000 women died of pregnancy-related causes in 2013, down from 376,000 in 1990.

Man gets life for killing therapist with cleaver

NEW YORK — Six years after slashing a psychotherapist he'd never met to death with a meat cleaver, David Tarloff stood before a judge and pleaded for mercy Friday, saying he was tormented for decades by what felt like a running battle in his head between God and Satan.

“I didn't want to do this. I swear to God,” he said. “But I thought all these bad things were going to happen.”

Tarloff, 46, was sentenced to life in prison for killing psychologist Kathryn Faughey and seriously wounding her officemate, Dr. Kent Shinbach, capping a case fraught with questions about his mental health.

Tarloff never disputed killing Faughey and wounding Shinbach. Tarloff had intended to stick up Shinbach — a psychiatrist he hadn't seen in 17 years — in hopes of getting his ATM card and withdrawing tens of thousands of dollars. Tarloff then planned to grab his sick mother out of a nursing home and take her to Hawaii.

From The Associated Press

NATION

Tough mudders tough on tummies

By MICHELLE RINDELS
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — It turns out the toughest obstacle of a Tough Mudder-style race might not be dodging live electrical wires, hoisting logs or leaping over a wall of flames. It might be the nasty stomach bug that can come from swallowing the muddy water.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a memo Friday warning that animal feces in the mud along the courses can give participants a bad case of diarrhea.

The agency said nearly two dozen people from the Nellis Air Force Base community in Nevada reported coming down sick after participating in a race in rural Beatty in October 2012.

The investigation traced the sickness to the bacteria campylobacter coli. It concluded people became ill after accidentally swallowing contaminated water on the course, which was on a cattle ranch within sight of cows and pigs.

The sickness generally sets in three days after the race, and it



JOHN HART, WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL/AP

Anthony Rohr crawls through a narrow passage of barbed wire mud during a 2011 Tough Mudder obstacle course challenge in Merrimack, Wis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a memo last week warning that animal feces in the muddy water along mud courses can give participants a bad case of diarrhea.

lasts a week.

Adventure races are increasingly popular in the U.S., where they drew about 1.5 million participants in 2012, according to the CDC memo.

In the 10- to 12-mile-long Tough Mudder challenges, participants slither on their bellies through fields of mud, plunge into icy

water and try to cross lakes while balancing on slippery tightropes.

The contests often draw active-duty military personnel or civilians in top shape. But the CDC said those daredevils can be brought to their knees by the stomach bug, which lurks in the animal droppings on the man-made mud fields.

Health officials recommend race organizers warn participants about the gastrointestinal dangers of the contest, and stress the importance of hand-washing and avoiding swallowing the water.

They also recommend race organizers set up the courses in areas where animals are less likely to roam.

CDC confirms first case of MERS virus in US

By MIKE STOBBE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Health officials confirmed the first case of an American infected with a mysterious virus that has sickened hundreds in the Middle East.

The man fell ill after flying to the U.S. late last month from Saudi Arabia where he was a health care worker.

He is hospitalized in good condition in northwest Indiana with Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Indiana health officials said Friday.

The virus is not highly contagious and this case "represents a very low risk to the broader, general public," Dr. Anne Schuchat told reporters during a CDC briefing.

The federal agency plans to track down passengers he may have been in close contact

with during his travels; it was not clear how many may have been exposed to the virus.

So far, it is not known how he was infected, Schuchat said.

Saudi Arabia has been at the center of a Middle East outbreak of MERS that began two years ago. The virus has spread among health care workers, most notably at four facilities in that country last spring.

Officials didn't provide details about the American's job in Saudi Arabia or whether he treated MERS patients.

Overall, at least 400 people have had the respiratory illness, and more than 100 people have died. All had ties to the Middle East region or to people who traveled there.

Experts said it was just a matter of time before MERS showed up in the U.S., as it has in Europe and Asia.

"Given the interconnectedness of our world,

there's no such thing as 'it stays over there and it can't come here,'" said Dr. W. Ian Lipkin, a Columbia University MERS expert.

MERS belongs to the coronavirus family that includes the common cold and SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, which caused some 800 deaths globally in 2003.

The MERS virus has been found in camels, but officials don't know how it is spreading to humans.

It can spread from person to person, but officials believe that happens only after close contact. Not all those exposed to the virus become ill.

But it appears to be unusually lethal — by some estimates, it has killed nearly a third of the people it sickened.

That's a far higher percentage than seasonal flu or other routine infections. But it is not as contagious as flu, measles or other diseases.

'He got what's coming to him'

Many in Okla. have no sympathy in botched execution

By KATIE ZEIMBA
The Washington Post

MCALISTER, Okla. — Geneva Miller was a bit annoyed as she dug into an egg salad sandwich at the Heavenly Delights bakery, where wooden signs line the walls bearing affirmations of food and family.

She can't believe that her state, with its strong support for capital punishment, is being pilloried across the nation because of one botched execution.

"We're just crazy about how everybody thinks Oklahoma is bad for supporting the death penalty," Miller said.

New details continued to spill out about the fumbled execution of inmate Clayton Lockett, 38, who died of an apparent heart attack Tuesday after authorities halted a lethal injection that caused him to convulse and a vein to burst.

The case prompted state officials to order a review of the way executions are carried out and has revived a national debate over whether the death penalty is inhumane. But for many Oklahomans, Lockett — who shot and ordered the live burial of a teenager — got exactly what he deserved.

"It's like the Lord said: You reap what you sow," said F.W. Sexton, who had just finished eating at a diner in Checotah. "And she died a terrible death."

In McAlester, Checotah and other towns in the verdant, rolling landscape of eastern Oklahoma, there is some discomfort about how the execution played out, and many agree that changes should be made to the system. But there is little argument about the final outcome for Lockett.

"I think he got what's coming to him," said James Barr, who was buying a coffee at the Harbor Mountain Coffee House in McAlester.

Lockett was convicted of murder and other charges, including rape, in 2000 after he and two accomplices attacked two young women, one of whom Lockett shot twice. Lockett then ordered his accomplices to bury the 19-year-old alive, witnesses said.

Coffeehouse employee Travis Boatner said that people have been talking about the execution but that there was little argument.

"There's really not much of a debate," he said. "This is the part of the country where people pretty much argue an eye for an eye."

Planning a visit to Yosemite? Leave your drone at home

The Associated Press

The bald eagle, the yellow warbler and the peregrine falcon have been joined in the skies above Yosemite National Park by a noisy newcomer: the drone.

The National Park Service issued a statement Friday reminding visitors that federal regulations actually ban the use of unmanned aircraft within the park's boundaries.

Yet that hasn't stopped drone sightings from becoming a nearly

daily occurrence in one of the nation's most venerated national parks in recent years, said Scott Gediman, a park ranger for nearly two decades.

"There has been an increasing use of the drones just because they are more prevalent on the market," he said, adding, "It's a new toy."

The drones can often be seen buzzing loudly near waterfalls, above meadows or over treetops as guests use them to capture

otherwise impossible-to-get photographs of the breathtaking landscape.

"Most if not all of the people using these are simply unaware that they're illegal," Gediman told The Associated Press.

One problem with the devices is that they can be distracting for personnel during emergency rescue operations, according to the Park Service.

Another issue is that they make lots of noise, putting a potential

damper on the park experience for visitors.

The remote-operated aircraft can also interfere with sensitive wildlife, such as peregrine falcons, which nest on cliff walls.

As rangers gear up for an increase in visitors during the summer, Gediman said he hopes Friday's announcement — along with similar advisories on Facebook and Twitter — will encourage people to leave their drones at home.

UKRAINE UNREST

Russia says it's inundated with pleas for help

Putin weighing options as 'thousands' calling for assistance from Ukraine

The Washington Post

MOSCOW — The Kremlin is receiving "thousands" of calls for assistance from Russian speakers in eastern Ukraine, and it has not yet decided on a response, a spokesman said Saturday, as Ukrainian authorities continued to move to push back separatists who have taken over key cities in the region after Ukraine suffered its bloodiest day in nearly three months.

The Kremlin's announcement came after weeks of declarations from Russian officials that if Russian-speakers in restive eastern Ukraine came under threat, they would consider intervening in a conflict that has left several cities in the hands of pro-Russian separatists.

On Friday, nine people were killed when the Ukrainian army launched its first major assault on a rebel stronghold, and 34 died in clashes between pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian mobs in the Black Sea port city of Odessa.

"People are calling in despair, asking for help. The overwhelming majority demand Russian help," Kremlin spokesman Dmitri Peskov told reporters Saturday. "All these calls are reported to Vladimir Putin."

The Kremlin, however, has not yet decided how to respond, Peskov said. "This element is absolutely new to us," he said, according to the Interfax news service. He said Russian authorities have lost their ability to influence pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine and that they would not be able to resolve the increasingly

violent situation alone.

Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, continued their efforts to dislodge separatists in the east. "The active phase of the operation continued at dawn," acting Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said on his Facebook page. "We will not stop."

Avakov said the Ukrainian military had retaken a television tower near Kramatorsk, although his account was not immediately independently confirmed.

In one sign that the Kremlin may still retain sway over the actions of allies in eastern Ukraine, a group of seven international observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe were released by separatists in Slovyansk on Saturday after being held hostage for more than a week, Russian envoy Vladimir Lukin told the RIA Novosti news-wire agency.

The release was a "voluntary humanitarian act," he said. It came after Putin sent Lukin to the region on Thursday to push for their release. Five Ukrainian military officers held captive alongside the observers were also freed.

Secretary of State John Kerry welcomed the release of the OSCE personnel and condemned violence "by any side."

"It's a step," he said of the release. "But there are many other steps that need to be taken in order to be able to de-escalate the situation." Kerry, speaking in Kinshasa, Congo, said he discussed those further steps in a call Saturday to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. He said he reiterated the



EVGENY MALOLETKA/AP

A man walks past the charred skeleton of a trolley bus in downtown Kramatorsk, Ukraine, on Saturday. Local residents said Ukrainian troops opened fire on a crowd of unarmed protesters.

warning of economic sanctions against Russia issued by President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, adding that any such measures would include broad sanctions on sectors of the Russian economy. He did not elaborate.

"It's important for Russia to withdraw support for the separatists," Kerry said. "If those supported by Russia continue to interfere with the election, regrettably there will have to be sanctions, including the possibility of — the reality of — sector sanctions."

He said he and Lavrov also discussed the rising level of violence in eastern Ukraine.

"The United States condemns the violence that has been taking place by any side," Kerry said. "That includes the violence of anyone who lit a fire and caused the deaths of those 38 people or more in a building in Odessa."



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANCHENKO/AP

The head of an observer group from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, German Col. Axel Schneider, left, embraces Vacheslav Ponomarev, the self-proclaimed mayor of Slovyansk, after he was freed on Saturday.

Showdown over Ukraine sparks Cold War-style propaganda battle

By HANNAH ALLAM

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Fed up with the Russian government's false claims early in the Ukraine crisis, the State Department issued an unusual, point-by-point takedown along with a cheeky note that said not since 19th-century novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky had the world seen such "startling Russian fiction."

The jab didn't seem to hurt in Moscow. A pro-Kremlin newspaper columnist mocked the Obama administration's "excellent knowledge of Russian literature." And an undeterred President Vladimir Putin spent the next several weeks polishing his narrative of a strong Russia standing up to Western imperialism in order to protect a vulnerable ethnic Russian population from an illegitimate, Nazi-infiltrated new Ukrainian leadership.

In retaliation, the State Department fired off a second literary-themed fact sheet: "Russian Fiction the Sequel: 10 More False Claims about Ukraine."

Such calculated repartee is fa-

miliar to historians and analysts of the Cold War, who've noticed a resurgence of that era's disinformation and propaganda tactics in Russia's showdown with the United States and Europe over its military activities in and near neighboring Ukraine.

The issue came into even sharper focus last week, when tens of thousands of Russians packed Moscow's Red Square for a May Day parade — the first since the collapse of the Soviet Union. It was a cannily timed revival that went well beyond celebrating workers' rights and included slogans approving of Putin's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region over the objections of the United States and its allies.

"From the Russian side, propa-

ganda-wise, you see a lot of talking about the West as a monolithic body. It's 'us versus the West,' very much in the way the Cold War was," said Vince Houghton, a scholar of Soviet-era foreign policy and in-house historian at the International Spy Museum, a privately operated museum in downtown Washington that exhibits Cold War spyware and propaganda artifacts.

Unlike in those days, however, the U.S. government's response to Russia's spiel appears far more muted. In part, that's in keeping with the Obama administration's efforts to avoid foreign entanglement unless there's a direct threat to U.S. interests.

But, say critics, it's also a reflection of how Washington turned

its gaze away from Moscow's information campaigns after the Soviet Union dissolved, and has downsized or dismantled the U.S. agencies that were tasked with countering such propaganda.

John Lenczowski, who was Ronald Reagan's principal Soviet affairs adviser and is now the president of the Institute of World Politics, touched on that topic at a recent event called "Propaganda, Disinformation and Dirty Tricks: the Resurgence of Russian Political Warfare," sponsored by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative research center in Washington.

The U.S. side is invoking the old tactic of juxtaposing repression in Russia with freedoms in the West, warning that Putin's world-

view is outdated and puts his nation at risk of becoming a pariah state — a refrain that comes up each time Washington defends the effectiveness of sanctions it's slapped on Russian businesses and business leaders.

Russian actions, however, are outpacing the U.S. response, with bolder and more provocative statements from the Kremlin each day, according to analysts who watch Moscow's messaging.

One battle in this information war was waged 140 characters at a time, with the State Department and Russian Foreign Ministry squaring off on Twitter over #UnitedForUkraine.

Initially conceived in the United States as a label to promote Ukraine's upcoming elections and highlight the country's democratic progress, the hashtag was hijacked by Russia to smear the Kiev politicians.

Last week, the Russian Foreign Ministry used UnitedForUkraine in a tweet that said, "Kiev authorities making situation in Ukraine catastrophic."

'From the Russian side, propaganda-wise, you see a lot of talking about the West as a monolithic body. It's "us versus the West," very much in the way the Cold War was.'

Vince Houghton
scholar of Soviet-era foreign policy

WORLD

Divers looking in new rooms of S. Korean ferry

By JUNG-YOON CHOI
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Divers battled strong currents and wind Saturday to search unopened rooms in a sunken South Korean ferry for dozens of missing passengers, officials said Saturday.

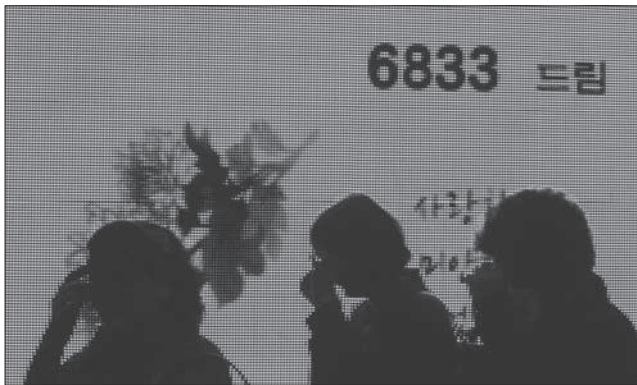
The divers will focus on opening six rooms on the third and fourth floors while again combing places already searched, said emergency task force spokesperson Ko Myung-seok. The task force says 58 out of 64 target areas have been searched.

"It took a while to develop

routes, but after the routes were developed to some degree, opening up the rooms and getting inside worked out in a short period of time," Ko said.

The emergency task force said in a news release that eight bodies were retrieved from the rooms on the third and fourth floors on Saturday. So far, bodies of 236 victims have been retrieved; 195 were found inside the ferry while 41 were found floating in the sea. The release said search will continue in the night.

Task force spokesperson Park Seung-ki said families are wor-



ANN YOUNG-100M/AP

Crying women are silhouetted Saturday as they pay tribute to the victims of the sunken ferry Sewol at a group memorial altar in Ansan, South Korea.

ried about the condition of the lost bodies because so much time has passed.

"To ease the families' mental pain and help them keep bet-

ter memories of the victims, the government will provide restoration services of damaged bodies," Park said.

The South Korean passenger

liner Sewol was carrying 476 people, mostly from a single high school, when it sank on April 16. Only 174 people survived, including 22 of the 29 crewmembers.



REBELS BATTALION OF BABA AMRO/AP

Syrian rebels hold their weapons as they prepare to fight against Syrian troops in Homs province, Syria, in 2012.

Evacuations from Homs delayed, Syria activists say

By DIAA HADID
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — The planned evacuation of fighters from rebel-held parts of the Syrian city of Homs was delayed Saturday, activists said, though a cease-fire still was holding in the country's third-largest city.

Rebels in the city agreed Friday surrender territory in exchange for safe passage to other opposition-held areas. The agreement came after a blockade by Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces caused widespread hunger in rebel-held parts of the city, which have been hit relentlessly by government artillery and airstrikes.

Local activist Samer al-Homsi and other three activists said it wasn't clear why Syrian forces weren't allowing the first phase of several hundred rebel fighters to leave.

One Homs-based activist said rebels were gathering wounded fighters, so they could be taken out as a first priority, beginning Sunday. Other Homs-based activists said they believed the delays were over a plan to allow food and aid into two blockaded areas — one blockaded by rebels in the northern province of Aleppo, and another blockaded by pro-government forces near Homs.

Activists also said a prisoner exchange deal between rebels and Assad's forces in central and northern Syria also could be delaying the move.

Homs was once known as the capital of the Syrian revolution for its fierce opposition to Assad's rule.

Meanwhile Saturday, Syria state television said rebel mortar fire targeting a government-held neighborhood in Aleppo killed at least 12 people.

Schools in Nigeria capital to close during conference

By MICHELLE FAUL
The Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria — All schools and government offices in Nigeria's capital will close during a three-day international conference next week, according to a presidential order that follows two bomb attacks in three weeks that killed nearly 100 people in Abuja.

A statement Friday night said the measure "is to ease the flow of traffic" during the May 7-9 World Economic Forum on Africa to which hundreds of international personalities, business and African leaders are invited. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang is the guest of honor.

The government has said it is deploying 6,000 police and troops to help secure the event, and President Goodluck Jonathan has assured delegates they will be safe.

Further indicating Nigeria's security threats, the U.S. Embassy warned Ameri-

cans in an email Friday that extremists were planning "an unspecified attack" on a Sheraton hotel in Nigeria's commercial capital, Lagos.

The hotel chain has two locally owned franchises in the southwestern city of about 20 million people. A duty manager at the \$350-per-night Sheraton in Ikeja suburb, near the international airport, said he was unaware of any threat. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to reporters.

Explosions on April 14 and May 1 in Abuja, in the center of the country, are blamed on the Islamic extremists Boko Haram terrorist network that has targeted schools and has slaughtered hundreds of students.

Militants of Boko Haram — the nickname means "Western education is sinful" — are holding some 276 teenage girls abducted from a northeastern school April 15.

Kerry urges steps to ensure democracy, security in Africa

The Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — America's top diplomat said Saturday the U.S. is ready to help increase its ties with Africa, but nations across the continent need to take stronger steps to ensure security and democracy for its people.

In an Africa policy address to members of the Addis Ababa diplomatic corps and the Young Africa leader network, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry highlighted crises in Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia and the Central African Republic and urged Africans to demand stability and financial development.

He called for an expansion of American investment in Africa and noted that U.S. companies IBM, Microsoft and Google already have spent more than \$100 million on projects across the continent.

"So this is clearly a moment of opportunity for all Africans," Kerry told about 100 Ethiopians at an environmentally-friendly auditorium on a mountaintop. "It is also a moment of decision."

The Obama administration has sought to expand U.S. private investments in Africa, and last year financed about \$1 billion to support American businesses across the continent, including an estimated \$650 million in sub-Saharan Africa.

WORLD

Toddler creates a stink for mainland China, Hong Kong

By BARBARA DEMICK
Los Angeles Times

BEIJING—One of the weighty issues about self-rule and democracy confronting China and Hong Kong, the former British colony that reverted to mainland control in 1997, who could have imagined it would come to this?

A 2-year-old boy defecating on a Hong Kong sidewalk has elicited an increasingly mean-spirited fight between some mainland Chinese and Hong Kong residents, who are exchanging words, including curses, and threatening to exchange bodily fluids.

It started April 15 when a mainland couple shopping in Hong Kong allowed their toddler to go on a crowded sidewalk in the Mong Kok district. An offended Hong Kong man started to take photos, whereupon the shrieking mother grabbed his memory card and started to scuffle with him on the street. Another Hong Kong man tried to seize the family's stroller.

"Don't you have kids? Don't

your kids need to use the toilet?" the mother screamed, while the father held the wailing toddler.

Police arrived and booked the mother on charges of assault and the father on receiving stolen property-to wit, the memory card his wife had seized from the camera.

Waggishly called "Bladder-gate" (although video of the child caught in the act shows more than urine involved), the altercation has become a defining incident in the strained relationship.

The stink has hardly dissipated. On Sunday, a dozen or so demonstrators at the giant Harbor City mall in Hong Kong mocked mainlanders by squatting and pretending to defecate on a photo of Mao Zedong and brandishing toilet paper. A skirmish nearly broke out between the protesters and offended customers and staff, who screamed at one another across the mall's atrium.

The Communist Party's official People's Daily weighed in Wednesday, denouncing the Hong Kong protesters as "skinheads"

and "hooligans."

"This handful of radicals in Hong Kong remind us of the rampant skinheads and neo-Nazis in Europe. Xenophobia is the cult of these groups," the paper opined. "We need to fight back and overwhelm any forces that try to harm the integrity of the nation."

Hong Kong, which has a population of about 7 million, receives more than four times that many visitors from the mainland each year.

Residents complain that the deluge has left Hong Kong with impassable streets, skyrocketing prices and shortages of consumer goods, especially products like baby formula.

Posters and banners have gone up denouncing the mainlanders as "locusts." Facebook pages are plastered with photographs of visitors engaging in what the British-mannered Hong Kong residents consider uncivilized behavior like eating on subways or allowing children to relieve themselves in the streets, a habit common in the Chinese countryside.



MATILDE CAMPODIGNO/AP

Uruguay's President Jose Mujica stands Friday with his dog, Manuela, at his home on the outskirts of Montevideo, Uruguay.

Uruguay leader calls Colo. pot law 'a fiction'

By LEONARDO HABERKORN
The Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay — Uruguay has finally released its rules for the legal marijuana market it is launching this year, detailing how the government plans to get very involved in every aspect of the business. But anyone hoping the South American nation will become a pot-smoker's paradise should probably head to Colorado instead, President Jose Mujica suggested on Friday.

"It's a complete fiction what they do in Colorado" in terms of controlling the sale and use of legal marijuana, Mujica said in an Associated Press interview.

Colorado licenses sellers and producers but allows any adult to buy up to 28 grams at a time — and then go down the street and buy 28 grams more. In Uruguay, consumers must be licensed as well, and each purchase will be tracked to ensure they buy no more than 10 grams per week, he said.

Mujica and his ministers plan to sign the regulations on Monday, and they'll take effect on Tuesday.

In two weeks, the government will take applications from businesses hoping to become one of a handful of growers supplying marijuana to the state. By early December, a network of pharmacies will be ready to supply the need to registered consumers at less than a dollar per gram, presidential spokesman Diego Canepa said late Friday.

As with tobacco, the pot will come in packages warning of health risks, and smoking will be prohibited everywhere but private homes and open-air locations. As with liquor, motorists will be subject to testing by police to make sure they're not driving

under the influence.

The state will sell five different strains, containing a maximum level of 15 percent THC, the substance that gets consumers high. Each bag will be bar-coded, radio frequency-tagged, and registered in a genetic database that will enable authorities to trace its origin and to determine its legality, Canepa said. The rules limit licensed growers to six plants per household — not per person, as some pot enthusiasts had hoped.

And while people who buy in pharmacies will be identified by fingerprint readers to preserve their anonymity, every user's pot consumption will be tracked in a government database.

Mujica predicted that many will call him an elderly reactionary once they see this fine print, but he said his government never intended to create a mecca for marijuana lovers.

"No addiction is good," he said. "We aren't going to promote smokefests, bohemianism, all this stuff they try to pass off as innocuous when it isn't. They'll label us elderly reactionaries. But this isn't a policy that seeks to expand marijuana consumption. What it aims to do is keep it all within reason, and not allow it to become an illness."

With bona fide plants registered at the molecular level, police can test for illegal weed wherever they encounter it, and arrest anyone with pot that lacks the proper genetic markers, the rules say.

Mujica said the system is more transparent and honest than the medical marijuana laws passed by 21 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, which he called "brutal hypocrisy" because people can fake illnesses to get prescription weed.



RUTH EGLASH/The Washington Post

Salem Abu Khaizaran, head of the Ramallah clinic where most of the fertility treatments are conducted, said sperm is smuggled out of prisons in many creative ways, including in chocolate bars and pens.

Palestinians in Israeli jails smuggle sperm out so wives can have babies

By RUTH EGLASH
AND SUFIAN TAHA
The Washington Post

ASKAR REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank — Suad Abu Fayed and her husband have had no physical contact for more than 11 years. That is how long he has been in an Israeli prison.

And yet on a recent day, Abu Fayed cradled the couple's 9-day-old baby, Hurriyah — a daughter whose birth earned her a place in an unusual but growing group: infants conceived during the past two years by in vitro fertilization, using sperm from Palestinian prisoners that has been smuggled out of Israeli jails.

The aim of the clandestine

process, those involved say, is two-pronged: to help prisoners' wives have children while their husbands are behind bars and to chip away at one facet of Israel's control over Palestinian life.

Hurriyah's father, Samir Abu Fayed, 37, is serving an 18-year sentence for involvement in terrorist activities. He is a member of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, the armed wing of the Palestinian political movement Fatah, according to his brother. Israel does not allow conjugal visits to Palestinian security prisoners, and carefully screened relatives can meet with them only through glass dividers.

But young children are allowed brief physical interaction with their fathers, and that is how

Hurriyah, whose name means "freedom" in Arabic, came to be. Abu Fayed's sperm was secretly shipped to one of the couple's three older children — born before he was imprisoned — during a visit at the Nafsa prison in southern Israel, said Suad Abu Fayed, 34. It was immediately transported to the Razan Medical Center in Nabulus, which specializes in the IVF treatment that led to her pregnancy.

"I know it won't be easy raising a baby with a husband in jail, but this is our way of breaking Israel's siege on us," she said, referring to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. "We are challenging [Israel's] occupation and getting something beautiful in return."

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OPINION

Are ugly private conversations fair game?

By JOEL MATHIS
 AND BEN BOYCHUK
 McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling is arguably the most loathed billionaire in America. His secretly recorded racist rant — chiding his mistress for “associating with black people” — made national news and led to his fellow owners voting to impose a \$2.5 million fine and ban him for life from the NBA.

But is Sterling's punishment a satisfactory end to the story? As former NBA great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban both pointed out, the conversation that led to Sterling's ouster was private and likely obtained illegally. “The making and release of this tape is so sleazy that just listening to it makes me feel like an accomplice to the crime,” Abdul-Jabbar wrote at Time.com.

Do the ends of punishing a high-profile bigot justify the means?

Ben Boychuk

Sterling's bigoted reputation preceded him. His bizarre complaints about his half-Mexican, half-black mistress's Instagram account were by all accounts fairly typical of the man. He has numerous racial discrimination lawsuits to his name. Some of them he settled. Some he won. But people who knew him knew he was rotten.

The billionaire estate lawyer tried to buy his way to respectability by giving generously to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The NAACP, in turn, was about to give Sterling a lifetime achievement award. His incoherent racist rant put an end to that.

Millions of Americans applauded what happened to Sterling. His ouster from the NBA proves that if nothing else, the broad American populace has no stomach for brazen racism and bigotry in a country with a long, sad history of both.

Trouble is, Sterling's downfall was a private conversation, not a public declaration. True, he's a public figure. But even public figures have a right to harbor ugly views behind closed doors.

When the NBA announced Sterling's punishment, former NBA All-Star and current Sacramento, Calif., Mayor Kevin Johnson declared, “I hope that every bigot in this country sees what happened to Mr. Sterling, and recognizes that if he can fall, so can you.” If even private conversations become fair game for public exorcism,



FOX AND FRIENDS

MIKE PETERS/King Features Syndicate

more than a few smug liberals may be eating their words.

At the risk of sounding glib, maybe the bigger lesson in all of this is to avoid cheating on your spouse. Don't forget, the soon-to-be divorced Sterling directed his bigoted rant at his former mistress. That's not to say fidelity to his wife of 50 years would make Sterling any less of a loathsome man. But remaining a bigoted but faithful husband might have saved him from public exposure of his private phone conversation.

A little more private rectitude would save a lot of people from public dishonor.

Joel Mathis

Liberals and conservatives view the world differently when it comes to race, sometimes in a fashion that redounds to neither side's credit. Liberals can be guilty of crying “racism” too often, while conservatives often deny that racism still has any force in American politics — or to attribute racism more to Democrats and African Americans than to whites and Republicans. Given those differing perspectives, most debates on race in this country end up being a Rorschach test, telling us more about the debater than the topic being debated.

So it is with the Donald Sterling incident. Here we have a clear, unmitigated incident of racism ... and conservatives still want to change the subject.

Racism is bad, they say, clearing their throats, but shouldn't we talk about the secret recording? Racism is bad, they say, but shouldn't we talk about Donald Sterling's infidelity and the gold digger who took advantage of it? Racism is bad, they say, but isn't this incident proof that racism has no real purchase on the American soul?

Almost never do they simply say: “Here is racism. Let us condemn it.” They have to add a million addenda and caveats to the conversation so that a talk about race isn't a talk about race.

Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar. Sometimes racism is just racism.

And far from demonstrating racism's unpopularity, Donald Sterling's story — viewed over the long term — demonstrates how long one can live on the edge of open racism and still amass power, influence and money in society. All you have to do is avoid saying some specific combination of wrong words, give yourself some plausible deniability, and you and your racism can still shape the world around you in ugly, pernicious, subtle ways. Does anybody want to make a case that it made no difference?

It clearly did. Racism is alive and well. It's just not usually so overt as Sterling's, which means we can keep denying it exists at all.

Ben Boychuk is associate editor of the Manhattan Institute's City Journal. Joel Mathis is associate editor for Philadelphia Magazine.

Remembering the cruel and unusual death

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS

Philadelphia Daily News

Let me, for a brief moment, put on my lawyer's hat. The Eighth Amendment barring cruel and unusual punishment is not a suggestion. It is a mandate carved in stone. We do not torture, we do not cause undue suffering, we do not stretch the bounds of humanity in the name of vengeance.

Not to the state's aid. The merits of the death penalty have been and will continue to be debated as long as justice is viewed through a personal prism. I believe that a society must impose the most draconian punishment for the most heinous crimes; otherwise, we do violence to the humanity of the victim. Others have a legitimate, heartfelt and sober belief that the government has no right to essentially “murder” one of its citizens.

But this concern for process, which is im-

portant, shouldn't turn our focus away from the fundamental issue: Capital punishment is legal and constitutional, the cold-blooded murder of innocents is not.

News reports about the 43-minute execution of Clayton Lockett focused on him writhing in pain. This, of course, is horrible. Even a rabid animal elicits sympathy when it's in the final, flailing agonies.

But few mentioned the reason Lockett was on that gurney in the first place with an IV strapped to his arm, the reason that his life was justifiably forfeit: Stephanie Neiman.

Stephanie was shot by Lockett, who then stood by and watched his accomplices bury her alive. I'm guessing that her agony lasted a bit longer than 43 minutes.

It is obviously true that two wrongs do not make a right, but there is really only one wrong here, and that is the vicious extermination of an innocent woman. The botched execution of her murderer is troubling from a procedural standpoint, but it should not

blind us to the true tragedy in this case.

The Lockett case is a textbook study in how pro- and anti-death-penalty activists view the issue. Opponents of capital punishment, who are generally but not necessarily liberals, feel that all life (except the unborn variety) is sacred and that society has no right to destroy it even in those cases when this would balance the scales on an “eye for an eye” basis.

Those like me, who favor the death penalty for the most violent and despicable crimes, feel that we are bound by a social contract, and that when it's broken by an act that falls below the lowest human threshold of decency the appropriate response is execution. Many of us are conservatives, but there are also a good number of liberals and libertarians who have no problem with snuffing out the life of an unrepentant murderer.

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News.

OPINION

President's critics aren't just neoconservatives

By LAWRENCE J. HAAS

WASHINGTON — “My job as commander in chief,” an exasperated President Obama told critics last week, “is to deploy military force as a last resort, and to deploy it wisely. And frankly, most of the foreign policy commentators that have questioned our policies would go headlong into a bunch of military adventures that the American people had no interest in participating in and would not advance our core security interests....”

“Many,” he went on, “who were proponents of what I consider to be a disastrous decision to go into Iraq haven’t really learned the lesson of the last decade, and they keep on just playing the same note over and over again. Why? I don’t know.”

Thus, our president, whom ex-administration officials say privately is all too cloistered among White House acolytes, dismisses his foreign policy critics as rabid force-first neoconservatives, and he makes clear that he views Iraq as the all-consuming cautionary tale of contemporary U.S. foreign policy.

But in absorbing a lesson from one troubled engagement, the president ignores a host of other lessons from foreign policy challenges that date back decades — about sending clear messages, fulfilling commitments, confronting aggression, understanding adversaries, and viewing the world as it is.

Thus, notwithstanding Obama’s belief, his critics span both parties and include not just neoconservatives but also liberal internationalists and realists; their complaints extend far beyond Obama’s reluctance to use force, and their concerns run from the Middle East and North Africa to Russia and the Baltics and to China and the Pacific.

Space does not permit a comprehensive critique of Obama’s foreign policy, but here are some top-line thoughts.

For one thing, Obama lacks credibility on the world stage. Our allies in Jerusalem, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and elsewhere don’t trust him, while our adversaries in Beijing, Moscow, Tehran, Iran, and elsewhere don’t fear him.



COURTESY OF THE HOMS CITY UNION OF THE SYRIAN REVOLUTION/AP
Syrian citizens walk on a destroyed street that was attacked by Syrian warplanes in Homs province, Syria. President Barack Obama says the world must act to stop genocide but professes powerlessness as Bashar Assad slaughters his people.

Obama promises to promote human rights in the Greater Middle East but looks away as Turkey’s Recep Erdogan silences his critics and gradually transforms his nation from a democracy to an autocracy. He says the world must act to stop genocide but professes powerlessness as Syria’s Bashar Assad slaughters his people.

Obama warns other global leaders against this move or that, and he threatens them with serious consequences, paralyzing sanctions, or even military action, but at crunch time, he backs away or acts meekly.

Obama said nearly three years ago that it was time for Assad to go, but other than naively pinning his hopes on an international conference that would somehow coax Assad to depart, he did little to make it happen. The Syrian strongman remains ever-more firmly ensconced, and, in fact, announced plans this week to seek another term (which, as an autocrat, he will surely

“win”).

Obama drew a red line on Assad’s use of chemical weapons but, after the dictator crossed it, reversed himself at the last minute and let Assad escape the military strike that he and his team had promised. He deems the Russian-engineered deal for Assad to relinquish his chemical weapons a success, even though the deal doesn’t cover all chemical weapons and evidence mounts that the dictator has since used such weapons again.

The message of promises not kept is received clearly in Tehran, which continues to maintain its right to pursue its nuclear program; in Jerusalem, which fears an Iranian nuclear weapon and says it will do whatever is necessary to prevent it; and in Moscow, where Vladimir Putin dreams of a restored Soviet empire, has annexed Crimea, and is orchestrating chaos in Ukraine to serve as a pretext of invasion.

For another thing, Obama seems not to recognize that our adversaries do not share his world view.

He speaks of peace and prosperity, shared interests and international law, collaboration and engagement, as if that will appeal to the tough-minded autocrats who crave power more than anything else.

“Russia has never been more isolated,” Obama says proudly, referring to U.S.-led actions in response to Moscow’s mischief in Ukraine. “And Russia is having to engage in activities that have been rejected uniformly around the world. And we’ve been able to mobilize the international community to not only put diplomatic pressure on Russia, but also we’ve been able to organize European countries who many were skeptical would do anything to work with us in applying sanctions to Russia.”

But, Putin will happily accept U.S. disdain to reap expansionist success. He will, as well, scoff at diplomatic pressure as long as Obama refuses to impose the kinds of sanctions that would truly bite him or threaten his hold on power.

For still another, Obama sees the world as he wishes it to be, not as it is.

He fell for the old and plainly ridiculous canard that Israeli-Palestinian peace is the gateway to more positive regional developments and, in encouraging Israel to make peace, he portrayed Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in brave, almost heroic, terms that simply don’t comport with reality.

Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry spent valuable time on an initiative that offered little hope of success, they let far more consequential regional challenges — such as Iran’s hegemonic rise, Syria’s bloodshed, and Turkey’s autocratic turn — grow worse on their collective watch.

To be sure, Iraq is a cautionary tale about the limits of U.S. military power. But, in applying its lesson to challenges so far and wide, Obama is leaving the United States decidedly weaker on the world stage.

Lawrence J. Haas is a senior fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council.

Without US troops, Afghanistan could descend into chaos

By MAX BOOT

Afghanistan had an election a few weeks ago. Iraq had one last Wednesday. But there is about as much that these two countries, both invaded by the United States in the last decade, have in common right now.

Afghanistan is moving forward just as rapidly as Iraq is moving backward. It is a telling contrast, and one that should inform the looming decision about a U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan after 2014.

Iraq is being plunged deeper into the abyss of all-out civil war that it barely avoided in 2007 thanks to President George W. Bush’s troop “surge.” Today, violence is back up to 2008 levels as al-Qaida in Iraq, now known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), has returned from its near-death experience.

ISIS once again controls much of Anbar province, and its fighters regularly set off car bombs that kill scores of innocent people across the Shiite Muslim heartland. ISIS fighters are drawing nearer to Baghdad, and estimates are that they lost in 2011 and 2008. So perilous has the situation become that the government closed the notorious Abu Ghraib prison, west of Baghdad, for fear that it would fall into insurgent hands.

Al-Qaida’s comeback has been enabled by the shortsighted policies of Iraq’s sectarian Prime Minister Nouri Maliki, who is now unrestrained by a U.S. military pres-

ence. He has targeted senior Sunni Muslim politicians, including former Vice President Tariq Hashimi, for prosecution. He has fired on groups of Sunni demonstrators. Worst of all, he has welcomed the Shiite militia groups Asaib Ahl Haq and Kataib Hezbollah, both supplied by Iran, who are fighting alongside the overmatched Iraqi security forces against Sunni militants. These militias are held responsible for the massacres of Sunnis in towns such as Buhzirah, north of Baghdad.

Iraq is now in the midst of a cycle of sectarian violence — with Sunnis murdering Shiites in retaliation for Shiite murders of Sunnis and vice versa — that leads to the seventh circle of hell into which nations such as Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Syria have previously plunged. There is no obvious escape in sight because, by manipulating Iraq’s sectarian politics, Maliki has managed to solidify Shiite support, which will probably ensure his continuation in office for a third term even as the country collapses. (Only the quasi-independent Kurdistan region remains peaceful.)

Contrast that with Afghanistan, which I visited recently. While violence, corruption, drug production and government dysfunction remain very real problems in what is still one of the world’s poorest countries, Afghanistan is making real progress. Kabul is busying and, notwithstanding some high-profile Taliban attacks, far safer than Bagh-

dad. The Afghan National Security Forces, now 370,000 strong, largely on their own managed to beat back Taliban attempts last summer to retake strongholds in Kandahar and Helmand provinces that had been won in the U.S.-led offensive from 2010 to 2012.

Even more impressive, the security forces managed with virtually no coalition presence on the ground to secure the April 5 presidential election despite Taliban attempts to disrupt it. According to Afghan news sources, some 7 million voters — more than 30 percent of them women — turned out to cast ballots. Most heartening of all, the top two vote-getters — former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah and former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani — are pro-Western moderates who have vowed to sign an agreement that would allow U.S. troops to remain after this year.

Neither man was the favored candidate of the incumbent, Hamid Karzai, who is seen as too corrupt and too anti-American by most voters. And both candidates managed to transcend ethnic boundaries: Ghani, a Pashtun, pulled in Uzbek voters thanks to his choice of Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum as his running mate; Abdullah, of Tajik and Pashtun parentage, pulled in Pashtun voters with a strategy of outreach.

The inauguration of either man would represent the first peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan’s recent history.

There was nothing preordained about the

fact that Afghanistan would be doing — by many measures — better than Iraq. It has none of the oil wealth of Iraq. Its population is poorer and not as educated. And its insurgency enjoys more cross-border support — from Pakistan — than Iraq’s ever did. Just a few years ago, Iraq appeared to be in much better shape: President Obama bragged on Dec. 14, 2011, that “we’ve brought behind a sovereign, stable and self-reliant Iraq.”

In hindsight, however, it is obvious that Iraq began to unravel the minute the last U.S. troops left. Without their advice and support, the Iraqi armed forces, however strong on paper, can’t even feed and supply their own soldiers, much less defeat al-Qaida militants. More important, the lack of U.S. troops has removed the leverage U.S. officials once enjoyed to limit Maliki’s sectarian tendencies.

There is an important lesson to be learned here: It’s vitally important to keep a substantial commitment of U.S. troops in Afghanistan after this year. Military commanders are asking for at least 10,000 personnel, and if that request isn’t granted by the White House, the odds will increase that Afghanistan, like Iraq, will descend into a civil war that undoes everything U.S. troops sacrificed so much to achieve.

Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the author of “Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare From Ancient Times to the Present.” This article first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teens throw prom for elderly home residents

GA SUWANEE — Carson Nevels, 17, reaches out her hands and asks Betty Fortier to dance.

"Come on, Miss Betty. Come dance with me," insists Carson, a junior in high school wearing a coral-colored homecoming dress, strappy heels and a big smile.

Fortier, 95, uses a wheelchair and rarely stands up — let alone dance. Still, Carson, one of about 25 teenagers throwing a "Senior Prom" at Noble Village, a senior-living home in Suwanee, won't give up.

The annual Senior Prom is the brainchild of Analise Kucera, 17, a junior who created an organization two years ago called "Bridge-workX." The group is aimed at connecting high schoolers and seniors through fun activities.

Analise orchestrates several events throughout the year, including an annual Valentine's Day tea that mixes bingo with a variety of teas and heart-shaped cookies.

House lawmakers vote to block their pay hike

DC WASHINGTON — House lawmakers voted for the sixth year in a row on Thursday to deny themselves the cost-of-living pay hike that they would otherwise automatically receive next January.

The move would freeze congressional salaries at \$174,000 a year and is attached to legislation to fund Congress' budget, which passed the House by a 402-14 vote. Lawmakers haven't received a pay hike since January 2009.

Judge hears inmate's hormone argument

OH COLUMBUS — A transgender prison inmate in Ohio wants a federal judge to order the state to allow her hormone treatments to continue, saying she suffered a medical setback including facial hair growth and depression when the treatments stopped.

Whitney Lee, whose legal name is still Antione Lee, had undergone continuous hormone therapy since 1999 until the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction abruptly halted the treatments in February 2012.

The state resumed the treatments last month after a judge temporarily ordered the state to provide them. Federal judge Algenon Marbley held a hearing on the issue Thursday in Columbus that was to continue Friday.

A prison psychiatrist has determined that Lee, 36, lacks the criteria for gender identity disorder, also known as gender dysphoria, and that the therapy can't be justified, according to the department.

New directive for graduates: No selfies

FL TAMPA — Toss your cap. Turn your tassel. Just don't snap that selfie.

Graduates at the University of South Florida's Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.,



TOM STYRONNE, THE BISMARCK (N.D.) TRIBUNE/AP

A soggy pickup

Wayne Seeman, left, and Tim Kunz, both of Ace Towing, guide a truck to a landing near the Grant Marsh boat ramp as a large crane lifts the truck from the Missouri River on Thursday in Bismarck, N.D. The all-day effort to pull the red Chevrolet from the river involved five teams from several jurisdictions. A teenager reported seeing a pickup drive across the ice and fall into the Missouri River on Jan. 26. The girl also reported seeing a white car driving away from the scene.

have been asked to refrain from taking self-portraits with their cellphones as they collect their diplomas. The seemingly simple directive is standing out for placing the slightest curtailment on a collective societal march toward sharing every waking moment on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and the like.

For some, the simple act of outlawing selfies may have sparked the desire for one. Anthony Sanchez, 22, a microbiology major at USF, said he's taken only a few selfies in his life. But he's not ruling out another at this weekend's ceremony.

"It put the idea in my head," he

said. "I wouldn't have thought of it until they said don't do it."

Wrestlers end meets after lynching photo

NJ PAULSBORO — Two New Jersey high school wrestling powers are stopping their matches against one another because of a photo in which members of one team simulated a lynching.

Paulsboro school superintendent Walter Quint told the Philadelphia Inquirer that continuing meets against Phillipsburg High School would be "disrespectful to

the people who are here that are hurt by" the photo.

The controversy erupted in February when the photo surfaced online of seven white Phillipsburg wrestlers, some with pointed hoods, posing with a black wrestling dummy hanging from a noose. The dummy is in a Paulsboro shirt.

Fired deputy seeks reinstatement

TN KNOXVILLE — A deputy who was fired after the publication of a photo that appears to show him choking

THE CENSUS

\$1K

The denomination of a bill that a burglar stole from a Sharon, Pa.,

resident. Sharon police said a homeowner reported that the bill, along with a \$500 bill, was stolen Saturday from a strongbox in the home. The high-denomination bills were taken out of circulation in the late 1960s and are coveted by collectors. Police Chief Mike Menster said there was no forced entry into the home or the box.



a suspect wants his job back.

Knox County Sheriff Jimmy Jones terminated Frank Phillips, 47, last Sunday. Jones said he believes Phillips used "excessive force" Saturday night while arresting a college student.

The Knoxville News Sentinel reported that an attorney for Phillips sent a letter to Jones asking that he reconsider his decision. The letter denies that the deputy used excessive force during the arrest.

Pilot, plane fuselage recovered from bay

CA RICHMOND — Crews recovered the body of a pilot along with his plane's fuselage Wednesday, days after the aircraft crashed into San Francisco Bay following a collision with another small plane that managed to land safely.

A marine salvage company retrieved the single-engine plane in an operation that was shown live by at least two news outlets. The body of the pilot could be seen in the wreckage of the Cessna 210, which plunged into the water on Sunday.

Man pleads guilty to hoax distress call

NC RALEIGH — An Atlantic Beach man has pleaded guilty in federal court to making a false distress call to the U.S. Coast Guard.

U.S. Attorney Thomas Walker Jr. said in a news release Friday that Homer Lewis Blackburn, 27, pleaded guilty Friday in U.S. District Court in Raleigh.

Authorities say the Coast Guard received a distress call on Oct. 8 in which the caller said he was abandoning his sinking boat near Cape Lookout and Shackleford Banks. They said the search cost more than \$288,000.

A witness told Coast Guard investigators that Blackburn used a CB radio mounted to the balcony of his apartment to make the call, then watched the search.

He faces a maximum sentence of six years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and restitution of the Coast Guard's costs.

From wire reports

SCIENCE

Researchers at University of Akron test how lizards fare against Teflon

By JIM CARNEY

Akron (Ohio)
Beacon Journal

That little lizard that has become so effective selling car insurance — the gecko — can climb across glass windows and across the ceiling.

You knew that, right?

The science of that ability has intrigued researchers at the University of Akron for several years because it has so much potential for application in such areas as construction materials and medicine.

They're so intrigued, they're asking tougher questions of the 50 little lizards kept in two labs at the Auburn Science Center.

"OK, buddy, how about this one: Can you walk on Teflon?"

The answer: not very well. The popular DuPont nonstick product not only resists cheese omelets, but it also presented a significant challenge to the hairy toes of the gecko.

Yes, hair. That's the secret. Not glue or liquids or surface tension. They have hairy toes — much like bristles — with thousands of them in one square millimeter, tipped with something called a spatula, so tiny that it is not much larger than the wavelength of visible light.

And what researchers have found is that the questions are endless, and students are a tremendous resource.

Undergraduate student Nicholas Wucinich, for example, a biology major who will graduate in May, asked: "What if the Teflon is under water?"

"I didn't have an answer," said Alyssa Stark, 31, a doctoral candidate in the university's integrated bioscience program. "I also didn't think the results would be all that interesting. If they don't stick in air, why should they stick in water?"

And so experiments were run, and Stark and her colleagues were in for a surprise.

"They stuck," she said.

"There is an important moral to this story," Stark said. "Always listen to your students."

Dr. Peter H. Niewiarowski, professor of biology and integrated bioscience and one of the principal investigators at the University of Akron's Biomimicry Research and Innovation Center, likes to talk about the Tom Cruise character in the film

"Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol," who with gecko-like gloves was able to climb the shiny surface of a skyscraper.

Cruise and his sticky gloves helped save the world.

"Having the ability to climb like a gecko immediately captures the imagination of kids and adults alike," he said. "Why is that scene so engaging? I suppose it is the degrees to which it seems so within our grasp. ... Bugs and geckos can do it. How is it we can't with all our engineering and technology prowess?"

While the movie trivializes the application, Niewiarowski said it helps translate to the public how important the practical uses of the gecko sticking-mechanism could be.

There are revolutionary implications, he said. A material that has the sticking power of a gecko's feet could lead to new construction materials or for bandages or closing wounds and skin after surgery.

"We use fasteners that are hard to acquire or involve toxic byproducts that are hard to recycle," he said. "What if you can fasten the corners of walls by using a gecko-inspired fastener? They could break down the walls and move them around and create a different living space."

Niewiarowski said that as they make new discoveries about the gecko, the possibilities for application expand.

"I think we really still don't understand how geckos deal with wet environments and remain sticky," he said. "We don't know if they avoid wet surfaces or avoid being active when surfaces are wet or if they have some other tricks," he said. Working with geckos "that spend all their time in the laboratory" might in fact be limiting.

Polymer science professor Dr. Ali Dhinojwala, one of the researchers, said that as a scientist who studies adhesion, one of the most significant challenges is that synthetic sticky things don't easily release, as does a gecko foot pad. For example, he said, duct tape stuck to itself is nearly impossible to pull apart.

He also is fascinated with the fact that the gecko foot pads are self-cleaning, which means they can walk on a dirty surface.

The recent discovery about wet Teflon is very important, he said.

"It probably should have been obvious," he said. After all, they can walk on wet plants.

"Ninety percent of the time I get calls from companies and organizations to help me design material which would stick in water," he said.

Within the next few months, he said, results of a new study that was an outgrowth of the water discovery is expected to be announced at the University of Akron, Dhinojwala said.

"You will see major products out there," Dhinojwala said.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CLIP BOSLER, FORT WORTH (TEXAS) STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

What makes geckos stick?



KAREN SCHIELY, AKRON (OHIO) BEACON JOURNAL/MCT

Dr. Peter H. Niewiarowski, left, professor of biology and integrated bioscience at the University of Akron, and Alyssa Stark, a Ph.D. candidate in the integrated bioscience program, right, study a gecko for the adhesive capabilities of their toe pads.

MUSIC



Eric Rivo Aereuse (Courtesy of Shore Fire Media)

From left: Philip Peeples, Murry Hammond, Rhett Miller and Ken Bethea.

Two decades after debut, alt-country standouts Old 97's still alive and wired

By PRESTON JONES

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Rock 'n' roll has never been ambivalent about aging.

"I hope I die before I get old," declared Roger Daltrey.

"It's better to burn out than to fade away," yelped Neil Young.

Even the Beatles — that eternal fountain of musical youth — were not immune: "Will you still need me/Will you still feed me/When I'm 64?" queried Paul McCartney.

Now, add to the list another act that refuses to go quietly into that good night, the Old 97's. "We've been doing this longer than you've been alive," Rhett Miller spits.

That sentiment forms the spine of "Most Messed Up," the Dallas-formed rock band's latest album, which arrived in stores Tuesday, two decades after its 1994 debut, "Hitchhike to Rhine."

The album is a raw, raging and riveting collection, one astonishingly vibrant for a band entering its third decade of business, only in that the band's youngest member, Rhett Miller, is the ripe old age of 43.

Growing up and aging gracefully is something most rock musicians would rather never do.

It's a rare species of rocker who is able to shift from one decade of life to the next without ever really seeming to arrive as an adult — the late Lou Reed, for one, comes to mind — but such a creature is the exception, not the rule.

A life spent making music has been on Miller's mind of late.

Twenty years is a long time to do something, and reaching that milestone is a point at which many bands, including the Old 97's, pause ever so briefly to glance back at what has been accomplished.

"When it came to this stack of songs and the sort of acknowledgment of the passage of time, I was nervous momentarily because I thought, 'Well, God, nobody wants to hear songs about being old,' but these songs aren't about being old, they're about

the whole life," Miller says. "The cycle of starting as a young man and growing into full adulthood in this crazy, circus life and the pitfalls that we've managed to avoid, and the pitfalls that we haven't avoided. There's not a lot of rock 'n' roll perspective given because (in rock music) so much emphasis is placed on youth."

Which is precisely what sets "Most Messed Up" apart not only from other records in the 97's catalog. With the weariness of songs like "Nashville" and "Wasted," or the room-clearing fury of the title track, which closes out the album with a scream, this one feels earned and lived in, a band capturing what it does best.

Formed in 1993 by Miller and Murry Hammond, the Old 97's became renowned on the Dallas club circuit for ferocious live performances that, eventually, caught the attention of the major labels.

The 97's, after cutting a full-length and a split EP with Dallas' Funland for local label mainstay Idol Records, jumped to the Chicago-based Bloodshot Records before

landing at Elektra Records in 1997, and releasing what many fans still consider the defining 97's LP, "Too Far to Care."

"Care" and its scorching lead-off track, "Timebomb," brought the band to a new level of success, including, eventually, placement in television shows and films.

Yet, for all the initial momentum, the Old 97's, whose contract with Elektra was a casualty of the 2001 merger between Time Warner and AOL, never achieved the stratospheric rock stardom for which the band seemed so clearly destined.

Why the band never quite broke through and entered the musical mainstream is a question that, likely, will never have a satisfying answer.

"Obviously I'm proud of my catalog and the Old 97's career, but it is something that

took a while to get there," Miller says now. "There are levels of success and there's always a level above the one you've attained, and it's easy to just long for the one you haven't gotten yet, instead of appreciating the one you have. It took me a long time to step back and say, 'Jeez, this is a long career and there's none of it I'm embarrassed of.' I feel really good that I get to still keep doing this on the level I do. And the fact that it's just so rare, especially anymore, to be able to make a living doing this, I'm really proud of it."

All of which brings us back to the inescapable fact that the band's members — Miller, Hammond, Philip Peeples and Ken Bethea — are now veterans.

They've logged millions of miles and played thousands of shows, from grand theaters to dive bars, recorded 11 studio albums and made a mark as one of the Lone Star State's truly iconic bands.

"I think it's amazing," says producer Salim Nourallah. "Most bands can't spend 20 minutes together, let alone 20 years together. They're a legendary Texas band now. And I think what this record shows — a lot of people talk about alt-country, Americana and the Old 97's — this is a rock 'n' roll record. The 97's are a rock band, and they're a great rock band. They've continued to push and get better and not operate in this little box."

Nourallah, who has overseen the last three Old 97's LPs and recorded "Most Messed Up" with the band at Austin's Treefort Studio, along with engineer Jim Volentine, considers this latest effort a high-water mark for the rockers.

"I think every Old 97's record is re-stained compared to this one," Nourallah says. "It's more unhinged than anything they've ever done, which I really like about it, because the 97's are unhinged live. ... I think the hardest kinds of records to make are actually capturing a rock band in all of its fury."

Old 97's

Most Messed Up (ATO)

The new album from the Old 97's shows you don't have to be young and stupid to make great rock 'n' roll. Being middle-aged can work, too.

At 43, frontman Rhett Miller might be old enough to remember Chico Escuela. "Rock 'n' roll's been very, very good to me," he sings. "Most Messed Up" is a concept album, that rarity in these days of downloads, and Miller's exuberant embrace of excess and escapism makes for 12 terrific tunes. Guitarist Ken Bethea's cheerfully frenetic fret work helps establish the mood, and with ex-Replacement Tommy Stinson sitting in, several songs sound like 'Mats outtakes.

This is ramshackle rock, but not care-



free. Miller sings about oceans of alcohol, mountains of weed, the ups and downs of pill-popping and the charms of the road, such as motels with free ice. But he has one eye on the clock, noting that life's so short, there's barely time to cry. Make room for at least a few of these three-minute gems.

— Steven Wine
The Associated Press

MUSIC



In honor of their 20th anniversary, G. Love & Special Sauce have reunited to record the new album "Sugar." Pictured: G. Love (aka Garrett Dutton).

EMMETT MALLOY/Courtesy of Fresh and Clean Media

G. Love & Special Sauce

Sugar (Brushfire Records)

It's been 20 years, and G. Love & Special Sauce are still grooving with their blues-meets-hip-hop sound.

G. Love (born Garrett Dutton), Jimi "Jazz" Prescott and Jeffrey "Houseman" Clemens made the band's self-titled debut album in 1994, winning over fans with G. Love's harmonica and guitar, Jimi Jazz's stand-up bass and Houseman's drums.

The trio is back together on "Sugar," with their signature mix of bluesy tracks and songs with more mainstream appeal.

As the name suggests, "Weekend

Dance" will get you up off your feet while "Saturday Night," "Cheating Heart" and the title track keep with G. Love's long-time themes of good times and getting over heartbreak.

"Sugar" — G. Love's first album since 2011's "Fixin' to Die" — features appearances from Ben Harper, Marc Broussard and New Orleans horn player Shamarr Allen. One track not to miss: "One Night Romance" pairs G. Love with gospel and soul singer Merry Clayton.

"Sugar" should give G. Love plenty of material for a summer tour that starts in July.

— Caryn Rousseau
The Associated Press



Pixies

Indie Cindy (Pixiesmusic)

Twenty-three years is a long time between drinks, and that's what's passed between the Pixies' last studio album (1991's "Trompe le Monde") and this handsome, cobbling-together of new EPs, recorded with original members (Black Francis, Joey Santiago, David Lovering) and their premier producer, Gil Norton. In this reteaming, with several still-rare bruises (not to mention their well-documented shifts in female bassists), the Pixies' instrumental menace and spidery arrangements are zealously intact, along with their signature start-and-stop-on-a-dime dynamics, jangle-crunch guitars, and Francis' insistently icy allusions to grouchy gods and mopey monsters of all stripes.

Like much of "Indie Cindy's" best, a savage song such as "Bag-boy" would be right at home on their classic album, "Doolittle." Not that Francis' corrosive kvetches, moans and heated hollers — or the band's instrumental wall of woe — sounds dated. Their ferocity feels particularly fresh yet familiar on tracks such as "Andro Queen." What's updated is the sound, the way tunes like "What Goes Boom" and "Snakes" bound from your speakers, whether spin-cycle slow or ragingly hyperactive.

— A.D. Amorosi
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Wye Oak

Shriek (Merge Records)

Like them or not, you have to give it up for Wye Oak in terms of their sheer artistry and refusal to play it safe. Rather than attempting to lazily replicate 2011's breakout album "Civilian," the Baltimore twosome of Jenn Wasner and Andy Stack have the pluck to dive into experimentation, accepting the risk that they might fall on their face in the process. With "Shriek," the webbing and tethers of Wye Oak's safety net are severed, that ubiquitous element of modern music and the foundation of the group's past work — the guitar — kicked to the wayside.

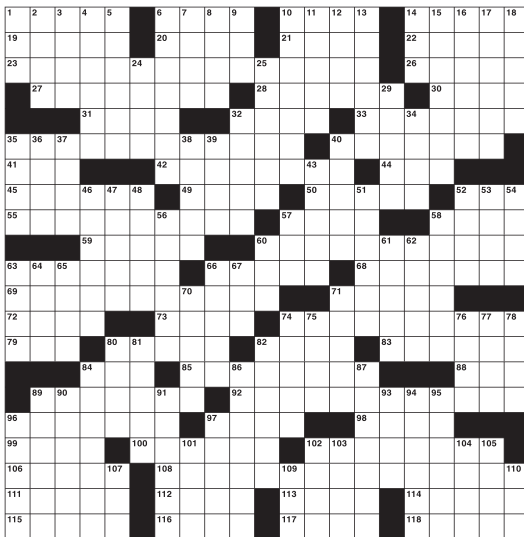
— Cole Waterman
PopMatters.com

CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

PREDICTABLE PARTINGS By JOHN LAMPKIN / Edited by Will Shortz

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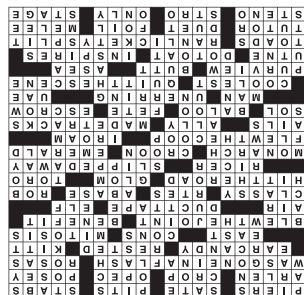
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GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zavisli. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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OMBUDSMAN

LIFESTYLE

Dillon Griffith, 82, right, has spent the past 37 years building a boat in his backyard in Sun Valley, Calif. He is hoping to have it completed this fall.

PHOTOS BY RICARDO DEARATAMHA
LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT



Whatever floats his boat

Los Angeles man, 82, has been building a vessel in his backyard since 1977

By Bob Pool
Los Angeles Times

He grew up on the sea. So maybe it's only natural that Dillon Griffith still has some salt water in his blood.

Which would help explain why the 82-year-old retired heavy-duty mechanic has spent the past 37 years — miles from the ocean — meticulously assembling a 64-foot boat in the backyard of his Los Angeles home.

"The Mystic Rose" has slowly taken shape on quiet Armita Street, a project so ambitious that it has passed through the generations with his children, in-laws, grandchildren and great-grandchildren lending a hand along the way.

When the boat is finally ready for its christening — by August or September, he hopes — it will take a 32-wheel trailer and a CHP escort just to get it to the water.

"People are already calling up to charter it," Griffith marveled.

Griffith plans to launch the boat in Oxnard, Calif., after a boatyard puts a special coating of paint on its hull and reattaches the wheelhouse, which will have to be removed so the 40-ton boat can clear overhead wires and bridges as it rolls to the ocean.

Griffith was born on the island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, where the Caribbean and Atlantic meet. As a young man, he sailed a 75-foot island-hopping cargo schooner around the Caribbean before coming to the U.S. in 1967.



Once in America, Griffith purchased a 40-foot fishing charter boat that he kept at the 22nd Street Landing in San Pedro.

"I finally decided it was just too small," he said.

When Griffith set his sails on building a larger boat, he and his wife concluded that their home in Arleta didn't have a large enough yard to accommodate his king-size plans. They snapped up the Sun Valley property when they discovered its house was large enough to accommodate the pair's eight children and its half-acre lot was big enough for his dream boat.

Griffith hired Seattle ship-builder Ed Monk & Son to draw up plans for his steel-hulled craft and built his own dry dock out of heavy-duty piping. He started

building the boat in 1977, working from the keel up.

Early on, Griffith and his family traveled to Montreal to purchase a battered 1955 Dodge truck with a small crane attached to it to lift the hull's steel plates into place for welding. "It took 11 days to drive that truck back here," he said.

Later, when the twin 600-horsepower marine engines were hoisted into the rear of the vessel to power its two propellers, a larger crane had to be rented. Two generators have also been installed to provide electricity for lights, refrigeration and navigation equipment.

"I couldn't believe he could do it. Many times I thought he would just quit," said his wife, Christine. "But I told him there was no way



Left: Dillon Griffith chats with his granddaughter, Patricia Kezart, on his boat. Griffith says he has spent \$1 million building the vessel.

Above: Griffith stands in the engine room of his boat.

he's going to drop this now, in the middle of the project."

There were setbacks along the way, of course. The U.S. Coast Guard visited the backyard on numerous occasions to inspect Griffith's work. Once, Coast Guard inspectors made him rip out the boat's internal walls so they could inspect his structural welding.

Over the decades, everyone in Griffith's growing family ended up lending a hand — new sons-in-law and many of his 54 grandchildren and great-grandchildren chipped in.

"Everybody in the family has been involved with this," said daughter Kim Griffith, 48.

Patricia Bezart, a 32-year-old granddaughter, said she's proud of the family's role. "How many peo-

ple can say their grandfather built a boat in the backyard?" Bezart asked.

But even with the free labor, Griffith estimates he has spent \$1 million of his own money on the boat.

"And I'm not done yet," he said, adding it will cost another \$50,000 to truck the Mystic Rose to the sea.

The finished vessel will sleep 25 people on fishing excursions and will have a refrigerated hold large enough to handle 10 tons of fish. It will require a certified skipper to operate it.

"Police and firemen have come by to climb aboard and watch me work," Griffith said. "Everyone in the neighborhood has been watching the boat being built."

GADGETS & CHARTS

Original programming plan in motion for Xbox

By DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

When it comes to original programming, Microsoft is going to throw it at the Xbox and see what sticks.

After nearly two years since launching a studio to create new shows to be streamed on Xbox consoles, Microsoft is finally ready to serve an assorted helping of original programming this summer for the Xbox 360 and Xbox One. However, viewers shouldn't expect Xbox Originals, as they're called, to be available the same way that content is provided on Netflix and Hulu.

"We don't necessarily know what approach will work, and we don't necessarily know what approach won't work," noted Nancy Tellem, the president of Xbox Entertainment Studios during a recent press preview of Xbox Originals at Microsoft's offices in Santa Monica, Calif.

Tellem, who previously was president of CBS Entertainment, said no decisions have been made as to how each Xbox series will be available — either as part of the \$5-per-month Xbox Live subscription, for sale individually or available for free through advertising partnerships. She said an Xbox Originals app would be added to the consoles' user interface, and each new Xbox series might be differently distributed.

Among the shows coming to Xbox this year are the street soccer docu-series "Every Street United," which will be the first to debut in July, and the six-part tech-centric documentary series "Signal to Noise." The first installment — "Atari: Game Over" — chronicles last month's excavation of a landfill thought to contain pieces of Atari's infamously bad "E.T." game.

The studio previously announced it was working on a live-action series based on the "Halo" sci-fi video game, with filmmaker Steven Spielberg serving as an executive producer, as well as a multi-part "Halo" movie to be executive produced by Ridley Scott, similar to "Forward Unto

Down," a "Halo"-based Internet series released alongside the last "Halo" game.

Xbox has also partnered with U.K. broadcaster Channel 4 to co-produce an eight-episode series called "Humans," an English version of a Swedish show set in a world where robotic servants serve human owners.

Other pilots in development include a reality series starring former Australian soldier and shark attack survivor Paul de Gelder; an adaptation of Warren Ellis' novel "Gun Machine" about a detective tracking a serial killer; and a variety comedy series featuring comedians Sarah Silverman, Michael Cera, Reggie Watts, Tim Heidecker and Eric Wareheim.

In addition to "Halo," Tellem said Xbox Entertainment Studios is actively developing additional shows based on five other Microsoft Studios game franchises: long-running historical simulator "Age of Empires," sweeping fantasy saga "Fable," slick racing series "Forza," alien shoot-'em-up "Gears of War" and zombie horror game "State of Decay."

Unlike such streaming content providers as Netflix, Hulu and Amazon, which push content to multiple gizmos, Xbox Originals won't be available to view everywhere. They'll be streamed only on certain devices, mostly the Xbox 360 and Xbox One, but possibly other Microsoft doodads, like the Surface tablet and the Windows Phone 8.

The move into show business comes a few years after Microsoft first proclaimed that Xbox consoles — now more than 80 million strong with 48 million monthly Xbox Live subscribers — are used less for actually playing games online and more for listening to music and watching movies, shows and videos on apps from such content providers like HBO, Fox and Twitch.

Sales of the Xbox One, Microsoft's latest console that's billed as an all-in-one entertainment device, have been successful but lagged behind Sony's PlayStation 4 since both consoles debuted last November.



JOBY/MCT

JOBY's Pro Sling Strap is designed with a SpeedCinch pulley system for instant camera access.

GADGET WATCH

Wi-fi extender handles dead zones at home

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Many households have Wi-Fi service set up with the main connection in a home office.

This extends the coverage well into a few surrounding rooms. But with more and more iGadgets entering homes daily, the need to extend your existing Wi-Fi to dead zones on other floors or far across the house becomes greater.

One solution could be to relocate your router to a central point, but a much easier solution is Netgear's AC750 Wi-Fi Range Extender (model EX6100).

For tech-heads who want specifics, the device supports dual band Wi-Fi up to 750 Mbps and supports Wi-Fi devices with 801.11ac, b/g/n.

It's simple to set up. All you do is connect to your existing Wi-Fi (during the setup they have to be close to each other), wait for lights to blink, answer a few questions, click a few boxes and you're done.

Then unplug the extender and put it in your dead zone, and give it a few minutes to warm up and make a connection. A pair of external antennas are built on to help direct the Wi-Fi.

After you're all set up, go to your network settings on the portable device you want to use in dead zones, choose the new network you set up and put in your password.

It measures 4.8-by-2.9-by-1.5 inches before you extend the pair of 3.25-inch antennas, which allows it to be plugged in almost anywhere, included behind furniture.

I have my Wi-Fi set up in my office, in the far corner of my house. After setting up the Range Extender, I went from having a single bar on my iPad's Wi-Fi meter to a four full bars.

Problem solved.

Online: netgear.com, \$89.99



NETGEAR/MCT

New camera straps from JOBY will be many a photographer's new best friend. Joby, a maker of creative accessories for digital photographers, has released a few very well-made straps of high-quality material and hardware for use with most digital SLR or mirrorless cameras, along with binoculars.

The Convertible Neck Strap (\$21.66) has quick release clips built into both sides to instantly convert it from a neck strap to a smaller wrist strap.

New to the Pro Series is the Pro Sling Strap (\$55.99), which is designed with a SpeedCinch pulley system for instant access to the camera.

This allows photographers to wear their camera over either shoulder or just around the neck at almost any level.

A fastening allows the camera to be instantly adjusted with a simple pull for the pulley system.

The strap attaches to the standard thread (3/4-inch-20) on the bottom of every camera with a greased bearing piece of hardware (included) and tightens with the help of a coin. This allows a secure and tight connection, and allows the camera to rotate a full 360 degrees. There's also a camera tether included with the Pro Sling for an additional peace of mind.

Online: joby.com

The RAZORPLUS from myCharge is true to its name since it's razor thin at 1/4 of an inch.

What's more important is it's a portable battery for charging most portable USB gadgets needing an extra boost of power on the go.

It comes pre-charged with 3000mAh of battery power for more than 13 hours of talk time, with a single USB port in an attractive anodized aluminum case.

A four-light LED system is activated by shaking the battery to test the battery level.

Online: mycharge.com, \$49.99

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store from April 30:

1. "Problem," Ariana Grande (feat. Iggy Azalea)
2. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea (feat. Charli XCX)
3. "Happy" (from "Despicable Me 2"), Pharrell Williams
4. "All of Me," John Legend
5. "Hold On, We're Going Home" (The Voice Performance), Christina Grimmie
6. "Turn Down for What," DJ Snake & Lil Jon
7. "Me and My Broken Heart," Rixton
8. "Play It Again," Luke Bryan
9. "A Little Bit of You," Paramore
10. "Not a Bad Thing," Justin Timberlake

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from April 21-27:

1. John Legend, "All of Me"
2. Iggy Azalea, "Fancy"
3. Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
4. Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty" — feat. 2 Chainz
5. Bastille, "Pompeii"
6. Idina Menzel, "Let It Go"
7. DJ Snake & Lil Jon, "Turn Down for What"
8. Goldplay, "Magic"
9. Aloe Blacc, "The Man"
10. Lorde, "Team"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store from April 30:

1. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
2. "The Legend of Hercules"
3. "Fruitvale Station"
4. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"
5. "Frozen"
6. "American Hustle"
7. "August: Osage County"
8. "Ride Along"
9. "Her"
10. "The Godfather Trilogy: The Coppola Restoration"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer Magazine ranks the Top 10 games for May:

1. "Dark Souls II," PS3, 360, PC
2. "Hearthstone," PC, iOS
3. "Kirby: Triple Deluxe," 3DS
4. "MLB 14: The Show," PS4, PS3, Vita
5. "Child of Light," PS4, Xbox One, Wii U, PS3, 360, PC
6. "Mario Golf: World Tour," 3DS
7. "Legs The Hobbit," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360
8. "2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil," PS3, 360
9. "Trials Fusion," PS4, Xbox One, 360, PC
10. "The Elder Scrolls Online," PC

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for April 30:

ANDROID

1. Family Guy: The Quest for Stuff
2. Clumsy Ninja
3. Pixelmon Minecraft
4. Stickman Impossible Run
5. Powerboat Racing 3D

Top 5 free apps for April 30:

APPLE

1. Microsoft Word for iPad
2. 2048
3. Microsoft Excel for iPad
4. Piano Tiles
5. Microsoft PowerPoint for iPad

— Compiled by MCT

WORLD



PHOTOS BY YVES LOGGHE/AP

Bottles from breweries that stopped producing artisan geuze beer are displayed in an artwork in front of one of the last remaining authentic lambic breweries, Oud Beersel, in Beersel, south of Brussels.



Sven Gatz, head of the Belgian Brewers federation, stands April 15 behind a Belgian flag modified to resemble a glass of beer.

Brewers seek to rekindle Belgium's interest in beer

BY RAF CASERT
The Associated Press

DWORP, Belgium — The ruby lettering on the front of the old, corner pub "In de Welkom" has peeled almost beyond recognition. Owner Leza Wauters, a tough 87-year-old, is holding on to her business but can't say how much longer. Sooner or later, yet another bar with a warm "Welcome" will be gone.

Serving local geuze, triples and pils beers for generations, the pub has embodied what the drink means to Belgians — bringing together families and friends with cheers of “sante” and “gezondheid,” gulping down tasty suds before ordering more.

Now, the tables are often empty, a sign of the hard times many pubs have fallen upon as Belgians have stopped drinking beer like they used to. The beer industry, meanwhile, increasingly has relied on exporting the world-class beers to far-flung markets.

Not good, they say here.

The Belgian beer federation is trying to rekindle local interest in the drink with a "Proud of our Beers" public awareness campaign, including a tricolor national flag with the middle yellow turned into a glass of beer.

"Belgian beer made in Belgium but not drunk in Belgium is not really Belgian beer anymore," said Gert Christiaens, the owner of the Oud Beersel brewery, which won a silver medal at the World Beer Cup last week with his geuze, a sour beer made through natural fermentation.

“If it is not in their roots anymore and they cannot pass it on to the next couple of generations, then we’ve lost.”

Gert Christiaens

owner of the Oud Beersel brewery

of generations, then we've lost. We cannot claim the heritage of Belgian beer if nobody knows about it," he said.

Beer consumption in Belgium is still relatively high — at 16.2 gallons per head annually. But that is a 27 percent drop since 1992.

In just about any town or village, pensioners can point out the places were bars used to be, and are now gone. Guidea, the research institute of the industry, says the number of drinking establishments has declined from 38,128 in 1983 to 17,512 in 2012, the last year on record in this nation of 10.5 million.

Exports, meanwhile, have risen, from 5.47 million hectoliters in 2000 to 11.69 million a dozen years later, to account for roughly two-thirds of production now.

Sven Gatz, the head of the Belgian Brewers federation, said the overall trend is not good for the local industry.

"You cannot be a strong beer country only exporting beer," he said at his gilded, baroque headquarters on one of Europe's finest squares, the Brussels Grand Place, proof of the exalted status beer has in this

country.

It's not only about boosting current sales, but about preserving for the future the identity and national heritage that had made the Belgian beers famous in the first place, he argued. In a globalized market, that identity is valuable.

Leza Wauters remembers the good times well. "Oh, we had more than 50 cafes in Dworp," she said of the bucolic village 10 miles south of Brussels, part of a hilly area of pastures whose landscapes, and beers, figured in the paintings of the famous artist Breughel. "It was incredible — it was almost like everyone had a cafe."

Now the village's pubs can be counted on two hands, she said.

Her granddaughter, Barbara Danis, fondly remembers time spent at the "In de Welkom" but recognizes its days may be numbered. Most clients are of an older generation that used to congregate daily in the pubs but that is now fading away.

"You used to have card players who came here every day," she said. Now, her grandmother complains, those games are over.

Younger clients are tough to attract because they prefer to enjoy drinks at home. They move around mainly by car — and have to heed modern drunken-driving laws — whereas clients in older times would walk to their local pubs. Laws prohibiting smoking in pubs also have hurt business.

Siene Verhelst, who ducked into the "In de Welkom" to order an amber Westmalle trappist beer, pondered: "You are lucky to be here, because this can be over next week."

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Jury: Samsung infringed Apple patents

By PAUL ELIAS
The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — A California jury awarded Apple \$119 million — far less than it demanded — in a patent battle with Samsung over copying of smartphone features, and the jury made the victory even smaller by finding that Apple illegally used one of Samsung's patents.

The verdict was a far cry from the \$2.2 billion Apple sought and the \$900 million it won in a separate 2012 trial making similar patent infringement claims against older Samsung products, most of which are no longer for sale in the United States.

The jury found that Apple had infringed one of Samsung's patents in creating the iPhone 4 and 5. Jurors awarded Samsung \$158,400, trimming that amount from the original \$119.62 million verdict. Samsung had sought \$6 million.

"Though this verdict is large

by normal standards, it is hard to view this outcome as much of a victory for Apple," Santa Clara University law professor Brian Love said. "This amount is less than 10 percent of the amount Apple requested and probably doesn't surpass by too much the amount Apple spent litigating this case."

The award may be adjusted slightly in favor of Apple. Jurors were ordered to return to court Monday to continue deliberations on a minor matter that could result in a higher award for Apple. Because the jury was still empaneled, jurors were prevented from talking publicly about the case.

Samsung spokesman Lauren Restuccia declined comment, citing the ongoing deliberations. Apple declared Friday's verdict a victory.

"Samsung willfully stole our ideas and copied our products," Apple spokeswoman Kristin Hui-guet said. "We are fighting to defend the hard work that goes into

beloved products like the iPhone, which our employees devote their lives to designing and delivering for our customers."

Unlike the first trial in San Jose federal court in 2012, Samsung lawyers made Google a central focus of their defense. Google makes the Android software that Samsung and other smartphone manufacturers use as their operating systems. Samsung argued that Google was Apple's real target.

More than 70 percent of smartphones run on Android, a mobile operating system that Google Inc. has given out for free to Samsung and other phone makers.

Both companies now will try to urge the judge to remove the others products from store shelves in the U.S. Love and other experts say that neither company is expected to succeed with those demands.

"So far, Apple has been unsuccessful at doing so and, without a sales ban, this case is unlikely

to move the needle on the larger battle between Apple and Android," Love said.

The verdict marked the latest intellectual-property battle between the world's top two smartphone makers. Apple and Samsung have sued each other in courts and trade offices around the world.

The jury of four men and four women delivered its verdict in the latest case after beginning deliberations on April 29.

MARKET WATCH

May 2, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-45.98
Nasdaq composite	-3.55
Standard & Poor's 500	-2.54
Russell 2000	2.83
S&P 500	1,128.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 5)	\$1.4215
Dollar buys (May 5)	€0.7035
British pound (May 5)	\$1.73
Japanese yen (May 5)	¥100.00
South Korean won (May 6)	₩1,005.00

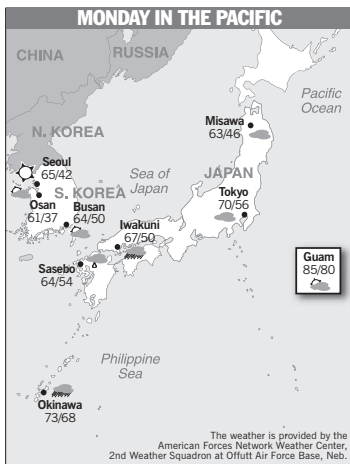
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6869/0.5928
Canada (dollar)	1.0976
China (Yuan)	6.2595
Denmark (Krone)	5.3807
Egypt (Pound)	7.0990
Euro	\$1.3872/0.7209
Hong Kong (Dollar)	1.7524
Hungary (Forint)	221.72
Israel (Shekel)	3.4553
Japan (Yen)	102.24
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2810
Norway (Krone)	5.9399
Philippines (Peso)	44.52
Poland (Zloty)	3.30
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2534
South Korea (Won)	1,030.22
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8780
Thailand (Baht)	32.39
Turkey (New Lira)	2.1048

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the U.S. dollar, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.09
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	3.37

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Sunday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	59	59	Cir	Chatanooga	84	53	Cir	Fort Wayne	57	43	Cldy	Louisville	79	54	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	56	42	Cir	Chicago	77	44	Cir	Fresno	84	55	Cir	Lubbock	95	56	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	57	45	Rain	Cincinnati	56	43	Cir	Goodland	91	47	Cir	Macon	84	50	PCldy
Albuquerque	84	52	Cir	Cleveland	57	43	Cir	Grand Junction	87	48	Cir	Madison	56	39	PCldy
Allentown, Pa.	63	44	Cldy	Colorado Springs	84	47	Cir	Grand Rapids	51	40	PCldy	Medford	65	46	Cldy
Anchorage	34	53	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	86	54	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	79	50	Rain	Memphis	86	59	Cir
Asheville	79	47	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	82	51	Cldy	Hartford	89	59	Cir	Miami Beach	83	72	Cir
Atlanta	81	56	Cir	Concord, N.H.	61	43	Rain	Hartford Springfield	66	46	Cir	Midland-Odessa	93	56	Cir
Atlantic City	71	49	PCldy	Cornelius, N.C.	88	59	Cir	Helena	64	43	Rain	Minneapolis	53	42	Cir
Austin	82	48	Rain	Copus Christi	88	59	Cir	Honolulu	61	40	Cir	Mpls-St Paul	55	37	PCldy
Baltimore	75	50	PCldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	92	61	Cir	Houston	87	72	PCldy	Mobile	77	54	Cir
Baton Rouge	87	60	Cir	Dayton	62	50	Cldy	Houstonville	88	59	Cir	Montgomery	86	53	Cir
Billings	63	41	Cldy	Daytona Beach	83	60	Cir	Indianapolis	87	52	Cir	Nashville	84	53	Cir
Birmingham	82	53	Cir	Denver	82	49	PCldy	Jacksonville	82	49	Cir	New Orleans	82	63	Cir
Bismarck	54	36	Cldy	Des Moines	58	46	Cir	Jacksonville	85	54	Cir	New York City	65	52	Rain
Boston	72	50	Cir	Detroit	57	43	PCldy	Jamez	61	33	PCldy	Newark	66	51	Rain
Boulder	61	51	PCldy	El Paso	91	60	Cir	Kansas City	83	54	Cir	Norfolk, Va.	80	55	Cir
Bridgport	68	48	Rain	Elkins	62	43	Cldy	Key West	77	52	Cir	North Platte	79	46	Cir
Brownsville	86	64	PCldy	Erie	51	40	Cir	Knoxville	82	52	Cir	Oakland	54	58	Cir
Buffalo	50	42	Rain	Eugene	60	48	Rain	Lake Charles	84	63	Cir	Omaha	67	50	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	53	46	Cir	Evansville	81	52	Cir	Lansing	87	57	PCldy	Orlando	85	61	Cir
Caribou, Maine	50	43	Rain	Fairbanks	64	42	Cir	Las Vegas	95	72	Cir	Pasadena	85	55	Cir
Charleston, S.C.	78	42	Cir	Fargo	55	33	Cir	Lexington	76	52	PCldy	Pendleton	66	45	Cir
Charleston, W.Va.	84	55	Cir	Flagstaff	72	34	Cir	Lincoln	70	50	PCldy	Philadelphia	68	50	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	83	54	Cir	Flint	56	39	PCldy	Little Rock	86	56	Cir	Phoenix	100	71	Cir
				Fort Smith	87	55	Cir	Los Angeles	77	59	Cir	Pittsburgh	61	44	Cir

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Fri., 106, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Fri., 16, Eagle Nest, N.M.



Independent News for the U.S. Military Community

*Whenever They Fight
and Wherever They Live*



The first Stars and Stripes was produced by Union soldiers during the Civil War. In 1861, using the facilities of a captured newspaper office in Bloomfield, Mo., they ran off a one-page paper.

Stars and Stripes was revived during World War I. Our first edition appeared in Paris on February 8, 1918. Produced weekly by an all-military staff, the paper served the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), under General of the Armies John J. Pershing.

The newspaper ceased printing at the war's end, only to enjoy a second renaissance. Starting on April 18, 1942, a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (two English pence or about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first edition of Stars and Stripes published during World War II featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who said that Stripes had been a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes also found a special champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States. Eisenhower enforced a

hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published as many as 32 separate editions, with page counts running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had up to 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

In the years that followed World War II, Stripes reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field. Throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, Stars and Stripes published the news. The paper was there in the 1990s during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Provide Comfort and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

As the "hometown newspaper" for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific, Stars and Stripes offers the same types of national and world news, sports and opinion columns found in newspapers in the United States.

Stripes.com coverage ranges from breaking military news reported from bases around the world to local DODDS high school sports. The paper is also available online in PDF format.

Stars and Stripes is available for iPhone and Android smartphones and a Tablet Edition is available for the Apple iPad.

Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where the editions are transmitted to printing facilities in Spain, Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, South Korea, Guam, Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, and Djibouti.

Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (in Okinawa, Guam, Kanto Plain and Korea) designed to serve the needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world launched in 2008 to serve servicemembers who have returned from overseas tours. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.



RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2013 National Headline Awards –
Second Place: News Series
(Forever After: A Warrior Wounded;
A Family Challenged)

2013 min Best of Web: Redesign –
Honorable Mention
Stripes UK website

2011 Military Photographer of the Year –
Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award –
Breaking News Photography (Newspaper
Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated
Website/National Magazine)
Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those
I love I will sacrifice"

**2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary
Award for Excellence in Journalism –**
Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –
Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Jon Rabinoff

2010 National Headliner Awards –
First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) –
Third Place: News Series
(Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism –
George Polk Award for Military Reporting
Recipients: Charlie Reed, Leo Shane III
and Kevin Baron

2009 min Editorial & Design Awards –
Editorial Print / Special Supplement: HEROES 2009;
Custom Publication Design: Stripes GAMER

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –
Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –
Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano;
Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery
Photography: Fred Zimmerman

2006 NAA ACME Award of Excellence –
Youth Oriented Ad Series/Campaign:
Stripes GAMER;
Entertainment Promotions: Tales from the Crib

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –
Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Steve Liever
Photography: Terry Boyd

**2004 American Legion Excellence
in Journalism Award –**
Ground Truth Series

**2003 Scripps Howard Foundation
National Journalism Award –**
First Amendment, Finalist

STARS AND STRIPES

SPORTS BRIEFS

Jaguars don't expect to have Blackmon in '14

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars expect to be without suspended receiver Justin Blackmon all season, maybe even longer.

General manager Dave Caldwell said Friday it would be "relatively surprising" to have Blackmon back on the field this fall.

"It's not something that we're counting on," Caldwell said at the team's annual pre-draft luncheon. "It would be something that would be relatively surprising. Haven't gotten a whole lot of updates from the league where he's at or from Justin, to be honest with you."

Blackmon is suspended indefinitely without pay for repeated violations of the league's substance abuse policy.

He was previously suspended the first four games of last year for violating the policy. He played four games before getting suspended again — at least for a year.

But the Jaguars aren't counting on Blackmon to return after eight games in 2014.

NFL rules prohibit the team from having any contact with Blackmon — aside from texts — during his suspension.

"Without having contact, we just have to protect the team now," coach Gus Bradley said. "We've got to do what's right for the organization so we have to continue to move forward and project that. We've got to get some guys in here at that spot and that's why you've heard Dave talk about why receiver is a need because of that. Now, if everything works out to get him back, that's OK. We always will love to get very talented players in here. But it's hard. But we just have to keep going forward."

Blackmon caught 29 passes for 415 yards and a touchdown in the four games he played last season. He was the team's leading receiver during that stretch.

In other NFL news:



SANG TAN/AP

Jacksonville Jaguars general manager Dave Caldwell said on Friday that it would be "relatively surprising" to have suspended wide receiver Justin Blackmon, above, back on the field this fall. Blackmon is suspended indefinitely without pay for repeated violations of the NFL substance-abuse policy.

■ The greatest players and coaches in NFL history believe openly gay defensive end Michael Sam, who is expected to be drafted next week, will be accepted in the league.

Lions running back Barry Sanders, Buffalo coach Marv Levy and other members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame applauded Sam's courage to step forward, and said with no hesitancy that the former Missouri player will be welcomed by whichever team selects him.

Levy, who led the Bills to four straight appearances in the Super Bowl, said Saturday at a "Fan Fest" event that his only consideration in drafting Sam would be "is he the best guy at his position when we're on the board?"

Hall of Fame cornerback Michael Haynes said the timing of Sam's decision to reveal his sexuality is good because previous generations were not as open-minded.

■ The Buffalo Bills could identify a new owner within three months, a person familiar with the sale process told The Associated Press.

Two people have also told the AP that at least one prospective ownership group has already toured potential new stadium locations in Buffalo. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because the sale process has not been made public.

The updated timetable has led Gov. Andrew Cuomo to speed up the state's efforts to secure the franchise's long-term future in the region.

The state intends to hire a consulting firm over the next week to produce a report within three months that would be issued to prospective owners. The report would identify potential stadium sites and outline public financing options that would be made available.

Stiviano speaks about Sterling, recording

V. Stiviano says Donald Sterling's racist comments on an audio recording leaked to the public were not the first by the Los Angeles Clippers owner in conversations with her.

"There's been a number of occasions where Mr. Sterling and I had conversations just like this one. This was one of very many," Stiviano told Barbara Walters on ABC's "20/20" in an interview that aired Friday night. "Part of what the world heard was only 15 minutes. There's a number of other hours that the world doesn't know."

Sterling told Stiviano in the recording that she should not post online photos of herself with black people, including basketball great Magic Johnson, or bring black people to Clippers' games.

The recording, which an attorney for Stiviano said was leaked by a third party, led to public outcry across the country and the NBA. Some sponsors dropped the Clippers and others re-evaluated their relationship with the NBA.

On Tuesday, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver banned Sterling for life, fined him \$2.5 million and urged league owners to force him to sell the team. A three-quarters vote by the NBA owners is required to force him to sell.

Though Stiviano told Walters that Sterling should "absolutely" apologize, she said she still loves him like a father figure and does not believe he is a racist.

"I think Mr. Sterling is from a different generation than I am," she said. "I think he was brought up to believe these things ... segregation, whites and blacks. But through his actions he's shown that he's not a racist. He's shown to be a very generous and kind man."

Stiviano said that since the ban, Sterling has felt confused, alone and not supported by those around him.

Bruins distance team from racist tweets

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins and Mayor Marty Walsh condemned racist slurs about P.K. Subban that hit social media after the Montreal defenseman scored in the second overtime of their playoff game Thursday night.

Bruins President Cam Neely issued a statement Friday calling the tweets "racist" and "classless." He said they came from an "ignorant group of individuals" who do not reflect the organization.

Walsh said in a statement that the tweets were "a disgrace. These racist comments are not reflective of Boston, and are not reflective of Bruins fans. I've said before that the best hockey in the world happens when the Bruins and Canadiens play each other, and there is no room for this kind of ignorance here."

Subban, who is black, scored twice and the Canadiens won 4-3 to take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinals.

Tossed toilet bowl kills Brazilian soccer fan

SAO PAULO — Police say a soccer fan was killed when he was struck in the head by a toilet bowl hurled from stadium stands as supporters of rival clubs clashed in northeastern Brazil.

A police officer in the city of Recife said Saturday that the clash occurred Friday night at the Arruda stadium after a match between Santa Cruz and Parana. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

The officer said fans ripped three toilet bowls out of stadium restrooms and threw them from the stands. He said one hit and instantly killed a fan he identified as Paulo Ricardo Gomes da Silva.

The incident comes six weeks before Brazil hosts the World Cup. Four tournament games are scheduled in Recife, but in a different stadium.

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MLB

AL roundup

Pedroia's grand slam lifts Red Sox past A's

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Dustin Pedroia spent the first month of the season just one home run shy of 100 in his career.

Pedroia reached the milestone with a little panache, hitting a grand slam in the sixth inning and propelling the Boston Red Sox to a 7-1 win over the Oakland Athletics on Friday night.

"I was pretty excited to hit a home run. It's been a while," said Pedroia, who had gone 160 at-bats without one.

The skid ended when the Red Sox truly needed it, clinging to a 2-1 lead on a night when both clubs were failing to drive in runs.

Pedroia drove an 0-2 pitch out to left field in the sixth inning for his second career grand slam and first homer since Sept. 17.

"Honestly, I was just trying to drive one run in," Pedroia said. "As a team, we've been scuffling a little bit with guys on."



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Boston Red Sox's Dustin Pedroia watches his sixth-inning grand slam leave Fenway Park against the Oakland A's on Friday.

The grand slam put Boston up 6-1 and the cushion was plenty for Clay Buchholz (2-2), who shut down the team with the top record in the American League.

Buchholz pitched 6½ innings, allowing one run on three hits and striking out five. He walked three and got himself out of several jams as the A's left five on base and were 0-for-7 with runners in scoring position against Buchholz.

"We hit some balls hard. We hit a lot of balls hard, actually — right at people and then didn't get some hits when we did have some guys on base," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said.

John Jaso scored Oakland's only run, coming in on a wild pitch after leading off the third with a triple.

Boston was having its own struggles with runners on base. Pedroia came through in the sixth off of reliever Ryan Cook. Xander Bogaerts and A.J. Pierzynski started the sixth with back-to-back singles off Dan Otero, who began the inning. Otero struck out Will Middlebrooks, then walked Bradley to lead the bases with one out.

Cook relieved Otero and got Pe-

droia down 0-2, before he cleared the bases with a shot that just cleared the Green Monster. A's manager Bob Melvin challenged whether the ball cleared the yellow line before a fan touched it and lost the appeal.

The milestone homer put him in elite Red Sox company as only the second player in franchise history with 100 home runs and 100 stolen bases. Pedroia, who stole his 121st career base in the first inning, joins Carl Yastrzemski (452 home runs, 168 steals).

"They told me that after the game. That's crazy," Pedroia said. "I guess I'm getting old. But just having your name anywhere said with his is an accomplishment."

Rays 10, Yankees 5 (14): Wil Myers and visiting Tampa Bay broke loose in the 14th inning while holding Derek Jeter to an 0-for-7 night, outlasting New York for a wild win that ended near 1 a.m. at Yankee Stadium.

Tigers 8, Royals 2: Rick Por-

cello cruised through seven innings and visiting Detroit battered Kansas City right-hander James Shields again as the opener of a three-game set.

Orioles 3, Twins 0: Ubaldo Jimenez struck out a season-high 10 over 7½ innings for his first win with Baltimore, and Nelson Cruz hit a two-run homer to pad the lead against host Minnesota.

Indians 12, White Sox 5: Michael Brantley homered and drove in three runs, Carlos Santana also went deep and host Cleveland broke a six-game losing streak with a win over Chicago.

Rangers 5, Angels 2: Shin-Soo Choo and Alex Rios homered in the sixth inning against winless Hector Santiago and Texas beat host Los Angeles to end a four-game losing streak.

Astros 5, Mariners 4 (11): George Springer singled home the winning run in the 11th inning to give host Houston a victory over Seattle.

Scoreboard

FROM PAGE 26

Rockies 10, Mets 3

New York	ab	r	h	bi	Colorado	ab	r	h	bi
Lagars 5	0	0	0	0	Blicken 3b	4	2	1	0
DnMrfp 2b	5	0	1	0	Arenad 3b	4	2	1	0
DWright 3b	4	0	2	0	Twtzss 2b	4	2	3	0
CYoung lf	3	1	0	0	Callens ss	0	0	0	0
Gmrsr fr	4	1	2	2	Mornea lf	4	1	2	2
Satin lf	2	0	0	0	Adams 1b	3	0	1	0
dMamad c	4	0	1	0	Dickson rf	3	0	1	0
Tejada 1b	0	0	0	0	Adams lf	1	0	0	0
ZWheir p	1	0	0	0	LeMahi 2b	3	0	0	0
Eyong ph	1	0	0	0	JDLr p	1	1	1	0
Famill p	0	0	0	0	Stubbs ph	1	0	0	0
Brau ph	1	0	0	0	CMartn p	0	0	0	0
CTorr p	0	0	0	0	Bellell	0	0	0	0
FRnsrp p	0	0	0	0	RWheir ph	1	0	1	0
Buntin ph	0	0	0	0	Adams lf	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	3	9	2	Totals	33	10	13	10

New York	ab	r	h	bi	Colorado	ab	r	h	bi
2 Wheeler L-1-3	4	7	7	6	2	1	0	0	0
Famill	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CTorr	2	5	3	3	0	2	0	0	0
Farnsworth	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Colorado
J De La Rosa W-3-3 6 8 3 3 3 0 2
C Martin 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Bellell 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Kahle 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
WP-C.Torres, J De La Rosa. T-3:02. A-42,040 (50,480).

Tigers 8, Royals 2

Detroit	ab	r	h	bi	Kansas City	ab	r	h	bi
Kinsler 2b	4	1	2	0	Aoki rf	4	1	0	0
Trifiro lf	5	2	2	0	Infante 2b	4	1	2	0
McMurr lf	1	1	1	1	Hosmer lf	3	0	1	0
VMTzn dh	5	1	3	2	Boutler dh	4	1	1	1
Adams 1b	4	0	0	0	AGordin 1b	4	0	0	0
D.Kelly 3b	5	0	1	0	S.Perez c	3	0	0	0
JMrtzf lf	4	1	2	2	Hayes c	3	0	0	0
Avila 2b	1	2	0	0	WVln 2b	2	0	0	0
Anrmss	4	1	1	0	AEscor ss	3	0	0	0
Totals	40	8	14	7	Totals	30	2	4	2

Detroit
Porcello W-4-1 7 4 2 2 0 0 6
Krol 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
Eroed 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
Kansas City
Shields L-3-3 6 12 8 7 1 3
Morrera 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
Marin 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
HPB-by Shields (Kinsler). WP-Shields. T-2:41. A-28,221 (37,903).

NL roundup

Cubs solve Wainwright to beat Cards

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Anthony Rizzo wasted little time in getting to Adam Wainwright.

Rizzo hit a two-run single in the first that ended Wainwright's scoreless streak at 25 innings, and the Cubs beat the St. Louis Cardinals 6-5 Friday for their third win in four games.

"I'm not trying to do too much," Rizzo said. "See the ball and hit it, really try to swing at the pitches I want to hit, not pitcher's pitches. Especially with Wainwright, his stuff is so good he's going to eat you alive."

Wainwright (5-2) had allowed six runs in 45 innings coming in, but the Cubs matched the runs total in just five innings against the St. Louis ace, who gave up 10 hits. His ERA rose from 1.20 to 2.16.

"They did a nice job of spoiling some pitches," Cubs manager Rick Renteria said of his batters. "You've got to give them all the credit. They grinded out some at-bats today and reaped some benefits."

The scoreless streak was one inning shy of the career high for Wainwright, who had not allowed an extra-base hit since April 12 against the Cubs in St. Louis.

"He's been incredibly consistent through this season so far. You can see pitches were just on the edge and not where he wanted them or weren't getting called," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said. "It's a frustrating day when he knows our guys put some offense up for him and we just can't stop them. He limited the damage and figured out ways to keep us in it. We had some chances."



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina tags out Chicago Cubs' Nate Schierholtz off a throw from second baseman Mark Ellis (3) on a fielder's choice hit by Wellington Castillo during the fifth inning on Friday at Wrigley Field in Chicago. The Cubs won 6-5.

Rizzo added a leadoff home run in the fifth that put Chicago ahead 6-3. Wellington Castillo had three doubles for Chicago, which sent the skidding Cardinals to their 10th loss in 16 games.

Travis Wood (2-3) gave up three runs — two earned — and six hits in seven innings but allowed just one runner in his final three innings. Justin Grimm gave up Johnny Peralta's two-run homer in the eighth, Hector Rondon pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Cubs centerfielder Ryan Sweeney made a catch on the run in the eighth on a drive to right-center by Allen Craig. Sweeney injured his

right hamstring and was replaced by Emilio Bonifacio, who moved from second.

"It was great determination," Renteria said. "Hammys hurt."

Marlins 6, Dodgers 3: Surprising Tom Koehler outpitched Josh Beckett and host Miami extended its home winning streak to seven games by beating Los Angeles.

Giants 2, Braves 1: Michael Morse and Angel Pagan homered, Tim Lincecum allowed one run over six innings and San Francisco beat host Atlanta.

Diamondbacks 2, Padres 0: Bronson Arroyo and two relievers held punchless San Diego to three hits and Aaron Hill hit a two-run

single to lead visiting Arizona over the Padres in a matchup of the bottom two teams in the NL West.

Rockies 10, Mets 3: Charlie Blackmon homered among his three hits, Jorge De La Rosa pitched effectively for six innings and host Colorado beat New York for its sixth win in seven games.

Interleague

Pirates 6, Blue Jays 5: Pedro Alvarez hit a tying two-run homer off Sergio Santos in the ninth inning and Starting Marte following one out later with a winning drive into the bullpen in left-center as host Pittsburgh beat Toronto.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Brassard lifts Rangers with OT goal

By WILL GRAVES
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The best line on hockey's busiest team hardly looked gassed.

The way Derick Brassard and Benoit Pouliot were furiously pouring in overtime goals, the New York Rangers didn't exactly look like they needed a day off.

Brassard beat Marc-Andre Fleury 3:06 into overtime — with Pouliot bizarrely doing the same seven seconds later — and the Rangers stunned the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-2 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals Friday night.

The winner officially went to Brassard, whose wrist shot from in front beat Fleury cleanly but caromed back onto the ice. Referee Steve Kozari waved it off, however, and play continued before Pouliot slammed the puck into a wide open net moments later for good measure.

"I found out way later (Brassard) got the goal," Pouliot said. "Good for him. We've been playing well against Philly and now tonight. We deserved that."

Pouliot and Brad Richards gave the Rangers an early 2-0 lead. Henrik Lundqvist stopped 34 shots and stuffed a late Pittsburgh breakthrough in the final seconds of regulation. The line of Pouliot, Brassard and Mats Zuccarello combined for 14 points in New York's four regular-season meetings with the Penguins.

They were the best trio on the ice on a team barely 48 hours removed from a wearying seven-game victory over Philadelphia in the opening round.

"Since Christmas they've probably been our most consistent line," Rangers coach Alain Vigneault said. "They've got real



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

Pittsburgh Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury (29) allows the game-winning goal in overtime by Derick Brassard (not shown) as New York Rangers' Benoit Pouliot (67) skates by on Friday in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series in Pittsburgh. The Rangers won 3-2 and lead the best-of-7 series 1-0.

good chemistry. They read off one another and support one another well and ... they scored two in overtime."

Lee Stempniak and James Neal scored for the Penguins. Fleury made 24 saves but was helpless on the winner.

"It was just a big pile of guys and I was trying to find the puck out of it," Fleury said.

Pittsburgh star Sidney Crosby was held without a goal for the 12th straight playoff game as the Rangers took away much of the open ice where Crosby likes to operate.

"It could've went either way," Crosby said. "I don't think we played a full 60 (minutes)."

Not exactly.

The Rangers were supposed to be exhausted after outlasting the Flyers in the opening round, not advancing until a 2-1 victory in Game 7 on Wednesday night.

Instead, it was the well-rested Penguins who appeared to need a nap.

Pouliot gave New York the lead 5:04 into first period, capitalizing on a Pittsburgh turnover then splitting Penguins defenseman Olli Maatta and Matt Niskanen

before firing a wrist shot that caromed off Fleury's right arm and into the net.

Richards doubled the lead late in the period with his third and easiest goal of the postseason. Carl Hagelin beat Maatta to a puck in the corner and fed it to Richards, who had enough time in front to go from his backhand to his forehand and flip the puck by an overmatched Fleury.

The Penguins came in 4-0 in the playoff series against New York. Now the Rangers find themselves in control with a welcome day off before Sunday's rematch.

Scoreboard

Second round

(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Montreal 1, Boston 0

Thursday: Montreal 4, Boston 3, OT

Saturday: Boston 2, Montreal 1

Tuesday: May 6 at Montreal

Thursday: May 8 at Montreal

x-Saturday: May 10 at Boston

x-Monday: May 12 at Montreal

x-Wednesday: May 14 at Boston

N.Y. Rangers 1, Pittsburgh 2

Friday: N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT

Sunday: at Pittsburgh

Monday: at N.Y. Rangers

Wednesday: May 7 at N.Y. Rangers

x-Friday: May 9 at Pittsburgh

x-Sunday: May 11 at N.Y. Rangers

x-Tuesday: May 13 at Pittsburgh

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Chicago 1, Minnesota 0

Friday: at Chicago

Sunday: at Chicago

Tuesday: May 6 at Minnesota

Friday: May 9 at Minnesota

x-Sunday: May 11 at Chicago

x-Tuesday: May 13 at Minnesota

x-Thursday: May 15 at Chicago

Los Angeles vs. Anaheim

Saturday: at Anaheim

Monday: at Anaheim

Thursday: May 8 at Los Angeles

Saturday: May 10 at Los Angeles

x-Monday: May 12 at Anaheim

x-Wednesday: May 14 at Los Angeles

x-Friday: May 16 at Anaheim

Blackhawks 5, Wild 2

Minnesota 0 0 2-2

Chicago 1 1 3-5

First Period—1, Chicago, Hossa 2

(Seabrook, Hossa), 14:48 (pp).

Second Period—2, Chicago, Hossa 2

(Said, Ledyd), 11:21 (pp).

Third Period—3, Minnesota, Stoner 1

(Parris, Pominville), 2:19, 4, Minnesota,

Brodziak 3 (Haula, Heatley), 6:56, 5, Chicago,

Kane 4 (Sharp, Seabrook), 8:22, 6,

Chicago, Kane 5 (Smith, Sharp), 16:47, 7,

Chicago, Bickell 4 (Toews, Hossa), 17:19

(en).

Shots on Goal—Minnesota 8-17-7-32,

Chicago 13-24-22-57.

Power-play opportunities—Minnesota 0

of 3; Chicago 2 of 4.

Goalies—Minnesota, Bryzgalov 1-3-0

(21 shots-17 saves), Chicago, Crawford

5-2-3 (30-10), 15:28.

A—22,116 (19,717), T—2:38.

Rangers 3, Penguins 2 (OT)

N.Y. Rangers 2 0 0 1-3

Pittsburgh 0 2 0 0-2

First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Pouliot 3

(Gardiner), 5:04, 2, N.Y. Rangers, Richards 3

(Hagelin, Girardi), 17:03.

Second Period—3, Pittsburgh, Stempniak

2 (Bennett, Goc), 7:15, 4, Pittsburgh,

Neal 1 (Gardiner), 15:28.

Third Period—None.

First Overtime—N.Y. Rangers, Bras-

ard 1 (Pouliot), 3:06.

Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 13-4-8-

2-27, Pittsburgh 8-15-12-3-36.

Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers

4 of 4.

Goalies—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 5-3-0

(36 shots-34 saves), Pittsburgh, Fleury

5-2-3 (27-24).

A—18,622 (18,387), T—2:53.

Kane's two goal powers Hawks by Wild in Game 1

By JAY COHEN
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Right about the time the Chicago Blackhawks got into trouble Friday night, it was showtime for Patrick Kane.

Kane scored two goals in the third period, including a terrific dash through the Minnesota zone for the tiebreaking score, and the Blackhawks beat the Wild 5-2 in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals.

Bryan Bickell also scored twice for the Blackhawks, who have won five in a row after losing their first two playoff games. Marian Hossa had a goal and two assists in the first game for the defending Stanley Cup champions since they closed out St. Louis on Sunday.

"We weren't as sharp as we'd like to be," Hossa said. "But as the game went on we improved. But I still think we can play better than we did. Huge win for us."

Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is Sunday.

The Wild showed no sign of any

fatigue just two days after their dramatic 5-4 overtime win in Game 7 of their first-round series against Colorado. Playing in the second round of the postseason for the first time since 2003, Minnesota used third-period goals from Clayton Stoner and Kyle Brodziak to tie it at 2.

"We had some good moments in this game, but what it came down to we weren't complete enough in this hockey game," Wild coach Mike Yeo said. "We weren't complete enough collectively and individually."

Brodziak's third goal of the playoffs on a slick pass from Erik Haula silenced the sellout crowd of 21,116 with 13:04 left, but Kane then electrified the United Center once again with his 33rd playoff goal.

The flashy wing carried the puck into the Minnesota zone, hesitated as teammate Patrick Sharp skated behind him, and then split Brodziak and Brodin on his way to the net. He finished the play by roofing a backhand over goal-



NAM Y. HUNG/AP

Minnesota Wild's Dany Heatley (15) shoots against Chicago Blackhawks goalie Corey Crawford during the first period in Game 1 of their second-round series in Chicago on Friday.

der Ilya Bryzgalov's left shoulder at 8:22.

"He's so calm with the puck in tight spaces and he makes shots that not a whole lot of people can make," Sharp said. "That back-

hand is a good example of it. The thing I like about Kane the best is the big stages, he always seems to put one in."

Kane then celebrated by yelling "Showtime!" twice and pump-

ing his right arm as the delirious crowd cheered wildly.

"Did it look like I said that? Sometimes I don't even know what I'm saying," said Kane, who won the Conn Smythe Trophy for playoff MVP last season. "I was pretty pumped up after that one. You kinda get in your own little world. I don't even know what I said, to be honest with you."

Kane added his fifth goal of the playoffs on a nice pass from Ben Smith, and Bickell had an empty-netter as Chicago pulled away.

"Kane just made a great play," Wild forward Jason Pominville said. "We generated a lot of opportunities. That's the frustrating part. We were right on the away and we weren't able to do it."

Minnesota went 0-for-3 on the power play in a disturbing sign after it struggled with the man advantage in its first-round playoff series against Chicago a year ago. The Wild were unsuccessful on all 17 power-play chances when they met the Blackhawks in the first round, and they were 1-for-5 in the Blackhawks in five games in 2013.

NBA PLAYOFFS



GREG WAHL-STEPHENS/AP

Portland's Damian Lillard shoots the game-winning shot over Houston's Chandler Parsons during the last .09 seconds of Game 6 of their first-round playoff series in Portland, Ore. on Friday. The Trail Blazers won the series 4-2 with the 99-98 victory.

Blazers eliminate Rockets

Lillard's late three sends 'Rip City' to second round

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Damian Lillard couldn't believe when he got a clear look at the rim.

With the final buzzer about to sound, he took his shot.

"I got my feet squared up and it felt real good leaving my hands," Portland's point guard said. "Once I saw it on line, I said, 'That's got a chance.'"

Lillard's shot fell and the Trail Blazers stunned the Houston Rockets 99-98 to take their playoff series in six games and advance to the Western Conference semifinals for the first time in 14 years.

In the frenzied postgame celebration, Lillard took the public address microphone and shouted "Rip City!" The hometown crowd roared.

Portland, making its first playoff appearance since 2011, had been eliminated in the first round in its last six trips, and hadn't advanced to the second round since 2000.

"It's a great feeling," said fellow guard Wesley Matthews. "I'm excited for Portland, of course excited for us. The grind of the



GREG WAHL-STEPHENS/AP

The Rockets' Jeremy Lin, left, and Dwight Howard react to a foul call during the final minutes Friday's Game 6 loss to the Trail Blazers.

season: You're a competitor, you want to win, you want to play, you want to advance, you want to be a champion. ... It's unbelievable."

Dwight Howard made four consecutive free throws to tie the game at 91 before making a bank shot that put Houston ahead with 3:04 to go. Robin Lopez scored on a tip shot to give the Blazers a 94-93 lead with 2:15 left, setting up a wild finish.

Howard's layup and foul shot put the Rockets back up 96-94 before Nicolas Batum's fadeaway jumper tied it again with 39.9

seconds left. Chandler Parsons scored on a reverse layup with 0.9 seconds left to give Houston the lead.

Lillard prevented the series from going back to Houston with his 3-pointer as time ran out. He finished with 25 points.

The Trail Blazers said Lillard is the first player to make a buzzer-beating shot to win a playoff series since John Stockton's 3 that led Utah over Houston in 1997's Western Conference finals, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Heat: James' gang has time to rest after sweep of Charlotte

FROM BACK PAGE

Top-seeded Indiana finds itself mired in a titanic struggle with the six-games-under-500 Atlanta Hawks as that series heads to a deciding game Saturday, while the Brooklyn Nets will need to win a Game 7 on the road after staying alive against the Toronto Raptors with a victory Friday night.

With all those superb teams out West, well, by the time the carnage is done on that side of the bracket, it'll be a wonder if anyone has the strength to put up much of a fight against mighty Miami.

So, enjoy this while you can. There's not going to be nearly as much suspense after the calendar flips to June.

For now, Miami is resting up for the conference semifinals after blowing out Charlotte in four straight games — by far the most ho-hum of the opening-round series. The Heat are saying all the right things, but they've surely taken stock of what's going on in the rest of the playoffs.

Start with Indiana, a team that fought hard for home-court advantage with an eye on getting payback against the Heat after losing to them in a seven-game conference final a year ago. The way things are going for the Pacers, they'll be fortunate to make it that far, despite finishing two games ahead of Miami during the regular season.

Sure, Indiana survived Game 6 in Atlanta, closing with a 16-4 run to pull out a series-tying 95-88 victory, but the Pacers are no lock to wrap things up on their home court, having lost there already not once, but twice in the series. The Pacers may play at a field-house named after an insurance company, but you wouldn't want to buy a policy from this bunch, not with their questionable toughness and enormous problems matching up with a team that likes to run and spread the court.

Even if they beat Atlanta, we can go ahead and scratch the Pacers off the list of potential challengers.

Brooklyn was the only other team in the East that could possibly present any hassles for the Heat. The Nets have two grizzled veterans from Boston's last title team (Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett) and a definite sense of how to beat Miami, having won all four of their meetings during the regular season — three of them by a single point. Just the sort of gutsy group that could present a serious challenge to LeBron & Co.

The Nets beat the Raptors 97-83 to even that series 3-3, but the old-timers will have to win the decisive game on the road Sunday to get a shot at the Heat in the next round. If Toronto advances, the Heat should breeze through to the conference finals; their last loss to the Raptors was sometime around the time when real raptors roamed the Earth (OK, not quite that long, but Miami has won 15 straight against Toronto, 14 of those since assembling the Big Three of James, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade).



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Top-seeded Indiana's recent struggles have left LeBron James and the two-time defending champion Miami Heat without any clear competition for the Eastern Conference crown.

The other remaining team in the East is Washington, which knocked off Chicago in a five-game series and beat Miami two out of three times during the regular season. The playoffs are a different animal, or course, and the on-rise Wizards aren't quite ready yet to match up with a team of the Heat's caliber when it really matters.

The Western Conference, of course, has plenty of teams that stack up favorably with the Heat when judged simply on a head-to-head basis. Top-seeded San Antonio should've beaten Miami in the 2013 NBA Finals and put up the best record in the league this season. Right behind the Spurs were Oklahoma City and the Los Angeles Clippers, both of which also won more games than anyone in the East.

But the depth of quality in the West will likely be its undoing before the championship series. San Antonio and all its aging stars are heading to Game 7 against eighth-seeded Dallas after a 113-111 loss Friday night. OKC has been forced to overtime four times by Memphis and faces a deciding contest on Saturday.

though the Grizzlies will be without suspended forward Zach Randolph in the series finale. The Clippers are going the distance against Golden State, though it's certainly tempting to root for LA's other team now that racist owner Donald Sterling has been banished from the league.

All of which provides some compelling story lines at the moment, but just makes things that much easier for the Heat down the road.

"I believe this is a great direction we're going in right now," James said after swiping the Bobcats. "In four games, we played championship-level basketball and we got tested ... and the way we responded was a championship-type attitude."

Just the right attitude for this bunch.

Go ahead and give 'em the three-pat.

NBA PLAYOFFS



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Fans cheer as the Dallas Mavericks' Monta Ellis celebrates after scoring and being fouled by the San Antonio Spurs in the second half of Game 6 of their first-round playoff series on Friday in Dallas. Ellis scored 12 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter as the Mavericks rallied to win 113-111.

Scoreboard

First round	
Eastern Conference	
Atlanta 3, Indiana 3	
Atlanta 101, Indiana 93	
Indiana 91, Atlanta 88	
Atlanta 97, Indiana 97	
Indiana 95, Atlanta 88	
Saturday at Indiana	
Miami 4, Charlotte 0	
Miami 99, Charlotte 88	
Miami 101, Charlotte 97	
Miami 98, Charlotte 85	
Miami 109, Charlotte 98	
Toronto 3, Brooklyn 3	
Brooklyn 94, Toronto 87	
Toronto 100, Brooklyn 95	
Brooklyn 102, Toronto 98	
Toronto 87, Brooklyn 79	
Toronto 115, Brooklyn 113	
Friday Brooklyn 37, Toronto 83	
Sunday at Toronto	
Washington 4, Chicago 1	
Washington 101, Chicago 99	
OT Chicago 100, Washington 97	
Washington 98, Chicago 89	
Washington 75, Chicago 69	
Western Conference	
San Antonio 3, Dallas 3	
San Antonio 90, Dallas 85	
Dallas 113, San Antonio 92	
Dallas 109, San Antonio 108	
San Antonio 93, Dallas 98	
San Antonio 109, Dallas 103	
Friday: Dallas 113, San Antonio 111	
Sunday at San Antonio	
Memphis 3, Oklahoma City 3	
Oklahoma City 100, Memphis 86	
Memphis 111, Oklahoma City 105	
OT Memphis 98, Oklahoma City 95	
Oklahoma City 92, Memphis 89	
OT Memphis 100, Oklahoma City 99	
Oklahoma City 104, Memphis 84	
Saturday at Oklahoma City	
L.A. Clippers 3, Golden State 3	
Golden State 109, L.A. Clippers 105	
L.A. Clippers 138, Golden State 98	
L.A. Clippers 98, Golden State 96	
Golden State 116, L.A. Clippers 97	
L.A. Clippers 113, Golden State 103	
Golden State 100, L.A. Clippers 99	
Saturday at L.A. Clippers	
Portland 4, Houston 2	
Portland 122, Houston 120	
OT Portland 112, Houston 105	
Houston 121, Portland 116	
OT Portland 123, Houston 120	
OT Portland 108, Houston 98	
Friday: Portland 99, Houston 98	
Thursday	
Trail Blazers 99, Rockets 98	
HOUSTON — Parsons 7-17 0-16, Asik 1-2 2-4, Howard 10-18 6-11 26, Beverley 1-4 0-2, Harden 9-15 12-24 34, Lin 4-13 2-4 11, Daniels 0-2 0-0, Jones 2-4 1-2 5, Tobias 1-2 2-3 11.	
PORTLAND — Batum 4-10 0-9, Aldridge 10-26 10-10 30, Lopez 5-10 2-2 12, Lillard 8-14 3-25, Matthews 4-13 2-4 12, Williams 1-3 1-3, Robinson 3-5 2-2 8, Wright 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 35-82 20-22 99.	

Houston	29	29	21	19-98
Portland	28	28	22	21-99
Three-Point Goals—Houston 7-19				
Harden 4-6, Parsons 2-4, Lin 1-6, Beverley 0-1, Daniels 0-2), Portland 9-24				
Lillard 6-10, Matthews 2-8, Batum 1-6).				
Fouled Out—Asik, Rebounds—Houston				
58 (Parsons 12), Portland 40 (Aldridge				
13), Assists—Houston 19 (Harden 6),				

Mavericks 113, Spurs 111

SAN ANTONIO — Leonard 4-9 3-4 12, Duncan 7-9 2-2 16, Splitter 4-7 11-12 19, Parker 10-23 1-2 22, Green 7-7 1-2 17, Diaw 3-5 2-2 9, Ginobili 1-8 4-4 6, Mills 4-6 0-0 10, Bellinelli 0-1 0-0 0, Bonner 0-0 0-0 0, Ayres 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-75 24-6 111.				
DALLAS — Marion 3-6 1-3 7, Nowitzki 11-20 0-22, Dalemberbert 3-4 0-6 6, Calderon 5-9 0-0 12, Ellis 11-22 4-6 29, Carter 4-6 3-4 13, Blair 3-10 4-7 10, Harris 4-8 3-4 11, Crowder 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 45-87 15-24 113.				
SAN ANTONIO	26	26	29	30-111
Dallas	34	24	18	37-113
Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 7-16 (Green 2-2, Mills 2-2, Diaw 1-2, Leonard 1-2, Parker 1-2, Splitter 0-1, Ginobili 0-1), Dallas 8-18 (Ellis 3-6, Calderon 2-3, Carter 2-4, Crowder 1-1, Marion 0-1, Nowitzki 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 45 (Duncan 9), Dallas 45 (Gardner 14), Assists—San Antonio 21 (Parker 6), Dallas 18 (Calderon 6), Total Fouls—San Antonio 26, Dallas 20, A-20, B-79, C-100.				

Nets 97, Raptors 83

TORONTO — Ross 3-9 0-6 6, Johnson 2-6 0-4, Valanciunas 4-5 1-2 9, Lowry 4-16 2-11, DeRozan 9-18 10-11 28, Salmons 2-3 1-6, Patterson 3-9 1-2 8, Hayes 0-0 0-0 0, Vasquez 4-10 0-9, Novak 0-2 0-0 0, Handrough 0-0 2-2 2. Totals 30-78 16-20 83.				
BROOKLYN — Johnson 5-12 2-9 17, Pierce 4-9 2-2 12, Garnett 5-7 3-4 13, Williams 8-16 3-4 23, Anderson 4-10 1-2 9, Bietze 4-8 0-0 8, Kirilenko 0-2 2-2 2, Thornton 2-6 1-2 5, Livingston 3-4 0-6 6, O'Leary 1-3 0-2 2, Plueme 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-77 19-25 97.				
Toronto	19	22	28	63
Brooklyn	34	26	18	78
Three-Point Goals—Toronto 7-24 (DeRozan 2-3, Lowry 2-3, Johnson 1-2, Vasquez 1-3, Patterson 1-3, Novak 0-2, Ross 0-4), Brooklyn 6-21 (Williams 4-10, Pierce 2-5, Thornton 0-1, Johnson 0-1, Telestovic 0-2, Anderson 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Toronto 46 (Valanciunas 9), Brooklyn 51 (Anderson 9), Assists—Toronto 16 (DeRozan, Lowry 4), Brooklyn 17 (Williams 4), Total Fouls—Toronto 25, Brooklyn 14, A-17, B-73, C-100.				

Ellis, Mavs force deciding Game 7

Dallas rallies past Spurs in fourth

By SCHUYLER DIXON
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Monta Ellis is headed to his first Game 7, and DeJuan Blair gets a chance to play his old team in San Antonio one more time after all.

Dallas star Dirk Nowitzki will return to the site of one of the best moments of his stellar career.

Ellis scored 12 of his 29 points to lead a fourth-quarter comeback that also got an energetic boost from Blair in his return after getting suspended, and the Mavericks forced a deciding game in their first-round series with top-seeded San Antonio, beating the Spurs 113-111 on Friday night.

"Put all of our chips on the table and see what happens," said Ellis, whose three-pointer put

eight-seeded Dallas ahead for a good at 94-92 with 5 minutes to go.

Tony Parker matched Nowitzki with 22 points to lead the heavily favored Spurs, who are stuck in a tossup series after they won all four games against the Mavericks during the regular season and had a 10-game winning streak against them after taking the opener.

The only other time these teams played a Game 7, Nowitzki had an improbable three-point play to force overtime in San Antonio in 2006. The Mavericks went on to win the second-round series and reached the NBA Finals for the first time in franchise history.

"Well, it's the ultimate thrill," said Nowitzki, who is 4-0 in Game 7s in his career. "Nothing matters anymore. Just this one game."

Nets top Raptors to stay alive

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Deron Williams had the Brooklyn Nets speeding toward a Game 7 when suddenly everything stopped.

He had just crashed to the court with what looked like yet another ankle injury. Kevin Garnett waved for help, and Williams slowly began limping back toward the bench. Then he decided to stay in.

For all the big names and big salaries on the Nets, Williams knows they aren't going anywhere unless he leads them. Williams shook off his second-half injury to score 23 points and Brooklyn forced a seventh game in its first-round series by beating the Toronto Raptors 97-83 on Friday night.

"I think that just shows leadership and toughness, and that's what he did tonight for us," Nets coach Jason Kidd said.

Despite spraining his left ankle early in the third quarter, Williams dominated his matchup with Kyle Lowry and helped the Nets put it away with a three-pointer with 1:13 left that made it 92-79.

Game 7 is Sunday in Toronto, with the winner advancing to face defending champion Miami.

It became the fourth first-round series ticketed for a do-or-die game in these playoffs, with the Atlantic Division champion Raptors trying to get by a Nets team that still has a chance to reach the high expectations it had entering the season.

But it can't be done without Williams, who has scored 20 points in all three Nets victories in the series.



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Brooklyn's Andrei Kirilenko and Toronto's DeMar DeRozan, right, fight for control of the ball during Game 6 of their opening-round playoff series on Friday in New York. The Nets won 97-83.

"In the three games we've won, I've been really aggressive getting into the paint, making things happen, not only scoring the ball but making the extra pass," Williams, who has battled ankle problems the last two seasons, said after limping up to the postgame podium, "and so I know that's what my team needs so me to do."

DeMar DeRozan scored 28 for the Raptors, who will have to go

the distance if they are to win a seven-game series for the first time in franchise history. They haven't won any postseason series since 2001, and never really had a chance to wrap this one up after falling behind by 26 points.

"We should've known they were going to come out throwing haymakers, and we weren't ready for it until the second half," DeRozan said.

SPORTS



Workin' overtime

Rangers stun Penguins in Game 1
of Eastern Conference semis | **Page 29**

NBA PLAYOFFS

No threat in sight?

Playoff drama sets up Heat for three-peat

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

As much as the rest of us are savoring these NBA playoffs, with all the buzzer beaters and Game 7s and overtime drama, the view is even better for LeBron James and his teammates.

The Miami Heat are looking at a clear path to a three-peat.

Let's face it: There's no one in the East that can match up with the two-time defending champs in a seven-game series.

SEE HEAT ON PAGE 30

LeBron James and the two-time defending champion Miami Heat appear to have a clear path back to the NBA Finals, and potentially, a rare title three-peat.

CHUCK BURTON/AP

Inside:

■ Lillard's last-second three eliminates Rockets, Page 30

■ Mavs force Game 7, Page 31

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Pedroia's grand slam lifts Red Sox over Athletics | MLB roundups, Page 28